



Paula Jane Dunbar

October 17, 1955 - August 26, 2020

Paula Jane (Zagers) Dunbar passed away on Wednesday, August 26 at her home in Cadillac surrounded by her family. She was 64.

Paula was truly dedicated and devoted to every aspect of her life. She was a caring daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, aunt, teacher and friend. She always had a smile on her face and could engage anyone in a conversation. Making everyone feel included, valued and important were some of her greatest gifts. Her ability to talk with everyone and make them smile or laugh was a priceless gift that she gave throughout her life. That smile, laugh and conversation will truly be missed by everyone who knew her.

On October 17, 1955 Paula was born to Paul and Marjorie (Ward) Zagers. She was the oldest of three children. In 1973, she graduated from Cadillac High School and then attended Ferris State College where she received an Associate Degree in Applied Science in Medical Assisting in 1976. On December 30, 1983, she married David Dunbar and began a lifetime that would be filled with children, work, extended family, family businesses and a wealth of close friends all of which continued to grow, flourish and expand throughout her life.

After having four children, Paula decided to return to college and pursue a degree in teaching. She graduated from Central Michigan University with a teaching degree in 2000 and began a teaching career that would span nearly 20 years. She taught at Mackinaw Trail Middle School, Lincoln Elementary School and ended her teaching career at Forest View Elementary. It was at

Forest View Elementary School that Paula truly found her "forever" teaching grade level. Her love for students in second grade and the journey she took them on from being beginner learners to students who could do math, read, write and think was her greatest joy in the world of teaching. Paula found time for everyone. Her three closest friends from kindergarten would meet together once a month for lunch throughout her life. She had friends from school, church, family, neighborhoods, her children's parents and her friends that she made while growing up in Cadillac. Her ability to keep all these different groups of friends throughout her lifetime was truly remarkable. Paula is survived by her husband, David; daughters, Lindsay, Laura (Ryan) and sons, Andrew (Emily), Matthew (Christina); her precious grandson Carter; brother, Mark (Robin) Zagers; sister Mary Zagers; mother-in-law; Betty Dunbar, brother-in-laws; Gary (Deborah) Dunbar, Dirk(Ulli) Dunbar, and sister-in-law; Shawn(Steve) Martemucci; several aunts and uncles and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her father-in-law, Leo Dunbar and her sister-in-law, Patti Dunbar.

A private family graveside service is planned and a memorial service to honor and remember Paula will be held at a later date.

A memorial has been established in Paula's name. Please send memorial gifts to the Cadillac Area Community Foundation to support books for Forest View Elementary School. An online guestbook is available at www.petersonfh.com.

JK

“ We are so sorry for your loss.

Jim & Penny Kolpin - August 31, 2020 at 05:29 AM

KH

“ *Paula was a gift to our family when our child needed special attention and love at school. Her students respected her and had fun in her classroom. She enriched their lives with her positive attitude and set high expectations unique to each student. Thank you Paula for being a blessing to so many of us.*

Katy Lee Huckle - August 30, 2020 at 09:12 AM

JJ

“ *very sorry for your loss, thoughts and prayers to you and all the ones that loved Paula*

Jeff Johns - August 29, 2020 at 07:45 PM

GH

“ *I loved this great Lady, who I met at Forestview, when I became a Foster Grandma there. She was so precious with her love and kindness to me and everyone there. She loved every one of her students and taught respect and kindness. I will miss our text messages, Paula, and will always have a special place for you in my heart.*

Grandma D (Dorothy Hawkins) - August 29, 2020 at 03:57 PM

DK

“*Paula was truly an amazing woman. I could always count on her for great advice and complete honesty. She was a great teacher to young and old. Paula was the type of person that you would want in your corner to tell you like it is or to give you the pep talk you needed. My daughter, Mairyn, had her for a second grade teacher at Forest View and would always be so happy to see her around town and often ask about her. She gave the best hugs! Mrs. Dunbar forever will be one of her favorite teachers and hold a special place in her heart. My deepest sympathy to her family and friends, we are truly lucky to have been graced with her love and friendship.*

Dena Kinnie - August 29, 2020 at 10:59 AM

JC

“*Dear Paula,
I have so many wonderful memories of teaching with you at Forest View elementary. You held an enthusiasm and passion for teaching. It was not only your profession but it was who you were to the core of your soul. You have so many people who love you and students who benefited greatly from the devotion and care you gave to each. You have been an inspiration to me and I am thankful for our conversations about becoming a teacher. Thank you for all your advice and letter of recommendation. I am so proud to have been a part of your life. Love and peace to you and your family.*

Julie Cieslak - August 29, 2020 at 09:28 AM

EM

“ Paula was a "trooper" right to the end and had the rest of us just thankful to have known her. I watched her grow from a 10 year old child when I worked with her Mother at Consumers Power Co. and throughout her life and admired her accomplishments. Always a sweet and caring person. Sincere sympathy from our family. Peace and blessings.

ELSIE MOORE - August 29, 2020 at 08:13 AM

JL

“ Cadillac is mourning the loss of a very talented and caring professional. Sincere sympathy to the entire Dunbar and Zagers families. Heaven is rejoicing upon Paula's arrival. Peace and comfort to family and friends.

Jerry and Diane Leavell - August 29, 2020 at 07:33 AM

KK

“ Dave & family - I am so very sorry to hear of Paula's passing. I didn't know her very well (only the occasional visits), but I know she lived a wonderful life ἡ ζωὴ ἡ ζωὴ ἡ ζωὴ full and complete. Her love for her family and her life endeavors certainly made it worth living. What a smile!
Kenny

Kenny Kent - August 29, 2020 at 06:41 AM

SB

“ Paula was a wonderful, caring person. Always had a smile. Thoughts and prayers to the Dunbar and Zager families. Paula will be missed. ἡ ζωὴ ἡ ζωὴ ἡ ζωὴ

Sandy Bengelink - August 28, 2020 at 07:43 PM