



Barbara "Babs" Paola

January 13, 2026

Barbara L. "Babs" Paola, 79, passed away peacefully on January 13, 2026. She was born in the Silver Lake neighborhood of Providence the daughter of the late Arthur and Lara (Gallo) Zanfagna. Barbara was preceded in death by her husband, the late Robert E. Paola, Sr. She is survived by her daughter, Brenda M. Yeomans, her husband, Peter, and their sons, Nathaniel and Anthony; her son, Robert E. Paola, Jr., his wife Elizabeth, their daughter Francesca, and son Bobby.

Barbara attended Mount Pleasant High and went on to become a dedicated Licensed Practical Nurse, providing compassionate care throughout her career. She gave comfort as a bedside nurse at Roger Williams General Hospital, as a visiting nurse, and in various clinical settings, touching countless lives with her kindness and skill. A passionate gardener, she lovingly tended her flowers while her beloved Robert grew the vegetables. Together they built a warm home that nurtured their children and grandchildren, and welcomed everyone as a friend. Known for her feisty spirit, Barbara was also always fully present to offer a compassionate ear to those who needed it, and had a true gift for healing and caring.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend a Mass of Christian Burial to be held Thursday, January 29th at 10 AM at St. Mary Church, Cranston, Rhode Island. Burial will follow with a committal service at the Rhode Island Veterans

Memorial Cemetery, Exeter, Rhode Island.

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 29. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary Church
1525 Cranston Street
Cranston, RI 02920

Committal Service

JAN 29. 11:30 AM (ET)

Rhode Island Veterans Memorial Cemetery
301 South County Trail (Route 2)
Exeter, RI 02822

Tribute Wall

Jl

“ You were such a good friend. Nobody made me laugh like you. You had the best sense of humor. You will be missed. Love your friend
JoAnn Ruhle

joAnn Iannotti - January 28 at 06:12 PM

PM

“ I will miss you so much Barbara, especially our daily phone calls.
Love Pat xo

Pat Maselli - January 21 at 03:54 PM

FD

I can't believe you are not here. It is a great loss for me. We had some great times my friend . TIL we meet again

Francine Gonnella DeAngelis - January 25 at 06:12 PM

TO

Brenda and family, our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Your mom was such a wonderful woman and we will miss her greatly. Tonya and family.

Tonya - January 29 at 07:34 AM