



# **Dianne Franklin Alexander**

FEB 14, 1940 - MAY 20, 2023



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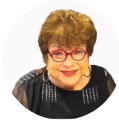
# Dianne Franklin Alexander

FEB 14, 1940 - MAY 20, 2023

**A**ffectionately known by her family and grandkids as “Sugar,” Dianne Franklin Alexander passed away peacefully on Saturday, May 20 with family at her side. Born in San Antonio, Texas on February 14, 1940, to Henry Carrell Franklin and Camille Fryar Franklin, Dianne was the only daughter and the eldest of three children. When she was a young girl, the family moved to Dallas, where she attended Preston Hollow public schools and had cherished memories of growing up on Stefani Drive. Starting early in life, she professed to being a bit on the defiant and mischievous side, once allowing the squirrels into her house and putting the garden hose through a downstairs window in her home, flooding the family’s formal living room. Looking back on that time with humor, Dianne would tell you that she was just getting started.

In 1958, she graduated from Hillcrest High School, where she was active in many activities and made a host of lifelong friends. From high school, Dianne went on to attend SMU, where she was an active member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority and majored in Education. It was there she met and fell in love with William “Bill” Alexander, her first husband and father to three of her four children. She graduated from SMU a year early in 1961 so she could marry and join him in New Orleans, where he was attending Tulane Medical School. Two years later, her oldest son, Will, was born, and her two daughters, Erin and Ashley, would follow in the next five years after they had returned to the Dallas area. In the late 70s, she remarried and had her fourth child, Clay.

As a young woman, Dianne taught elementary school in both New Orleans and Richardson public schools during the 50s and 60s. Her teaching experiences, she recalled, would later motivate her as a young doctor’s wife in Terrell, Texas to serve on the committee to desegregate Terrell’s public schools and later to establish the area’s first Planned Parenthood, giving underserved women full access to healthcare services—both very controversial, courageous stances for a newcomer to a small conservative town at a pivotal time in history.



## Obituary

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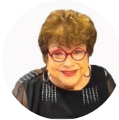
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As a young mother, Dianne's passion for others and her community went on to involve years of service to the Dallas Society for Crippled Children, Easter Seals, Art About Town, and Kappa Alpha Theta, where she served as Alumna Rush Chairman for many years. Though she was committed to serving her community through activities that were meaningful to her, Dianne's biggest source of joy was raising her four children. She was active in their schools, made sure they each got what they needed to thrive socially and academically, and drove her family station wagons into the ground carpooling and making sure that each kid got to their own afterschool activities. She was a force of nature—and a brave, independent woman raising her kids in the Park Cities neighborhood at time when there were few single parent families.

When all her kids were settled in school, Dianne pursued her dream of going back to graduate school, earning acceptance into a highly competitive master's degree program in Clinical Psychology at SMU. As the oldest student, she was also the only one juggling the demands of school with raising four children. After completing the program, she went on to establish a successful private counseling practice and helped thousands of Dallas families for more than 30

years who were suffering from eating disorders, chemical dependency, and a host of other mental health issues. She had a particular passion for children and adolescents who were struggling. For years she served on the boards of community mental health associations such as the Chemical Awareness Council and Dallas Challenge, volunteered as a professional psychological consultant to schools, helped start and build the June Shelton School, and mentored up and coming professionals. She had a special place in her heart for patients with chemical dependency issues, going above and beyond to get them to the best treatment programs—often at no cost or with substantial financial assistance. With her professional knowledge, Dianne helped countless hurting families and saved many lives. Former patients would come back years later and thank her for her tough, but loving approach with them. She enjoyed nothing more than hearing from an old patient who was thriving and moving forward in their life.

While she successfully raised four children on her own, she might have told you that she merely survived them, as each gave her different challenges over the years. But in walking through any number of travails in her personal life, including losing her sight at the end of it, she taught others how to do hard things with grace, an incredible sense of humor, and resilience—and to never give up on people or seemingly hopeless situations. Anyone who knew Dianne also knew of her love for animals. At the end of her life, her long-haired gray Persian kitten, Dash, kept her spirits up and brought her immeasurable comfort. She also had a particular place in her heart for Cavalier



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King Charles spaniels and owned many in her life. When her kids were young, she ran a virtual home zoo, welcoming any number of creatures to the house, from dogs, cats, parakeets and rabbits, to ducks, fish, hamsters, and guinea pigs.

Dianne's favorite place to visit was Santa Fe, where she got to as often as she could. She fell in love with the Native American culture and its spirituality and artistry, and she collected many works of art as mementos from her time there. If heaven exists on earth, she believed it was in Santa Fe.

Over the years, Dianne reveled in spending time and laughing with her six grandchildren and, more recently, her new grandson, Arlo, and great granddaughter, Emmy (aka "Nugget"). She cherished each individually and visited with all of them regularly until the very end of her life.

Dianne is preceded in death by her parents John Carrell Franklin and Camille Fryar Franklin and close friends Mary Louise McCord and Mozettie Walker. She is survived by her brothers John "Buz" Franklin (Barbara), Richard Franklin (Tanya), children William Alexander III (Merri Lynne), Erin Alexander Paisan, Ashley Alexander Mulligan, and Clay Sanders (Kirsten); her cherished grandchildren Tate Mulligan, Grace Mulligan, Aidan Mulligan, Riley Mulligan, Gabriella Paisan, Isabelle Paisan, and Arlo Sanders, and her beloved great granddaughter, Emilia Paisan; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Dianne's family wishes to thank the wonderful staff at Teresa's House in McKinney who were patient and took such loving care of her, with special thanks to LaTanya Williams, Kiki – Akina Horton, Caprina Toliver, Tremendous Wells, Jolie Atete, Kandice Morgan, Tyreesha Smith, and

Angela Hicks in House 3. We also are indebted to the end of life care she received from the Amatus Hospice Care team, with special gratitude going to Sherry, Natasha, Virginia and Ryan for their grace and loving care in her final days and hours.

A celebration of Dianne's life will be held on Thursday, May 25 at 10 a.m. at Restland Dallas, 13005 Greenville Ave. in Memorial Chapel, with graveside services and a reception there to follow. Visitation with family will be from 6-8 p.m. on Wednesday, May 24 at Restland Memorial Funeral Home.

Flowers were my mother's very favorite thing, so they are welcome. In lieu of flowers, donations to Shelton School Scholarship Fund, Families Anonymous, or Cavalier King Charles Rescue



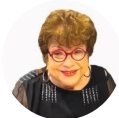
## Obituary

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would be appreciated.



## Events


**Dianne Franklin Alexander**

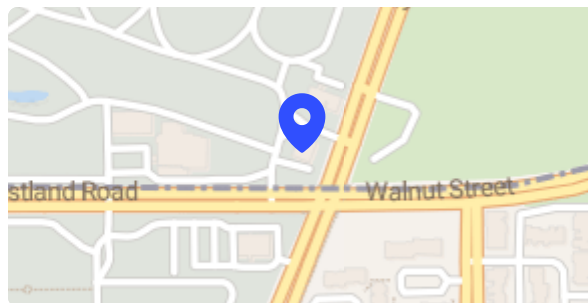
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### Visitation

 **Wednesday**, May 24, 2023


 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM CT


 **Restland Funeral Home**  
13005 Greenville Avenue, Dallas TX 75243

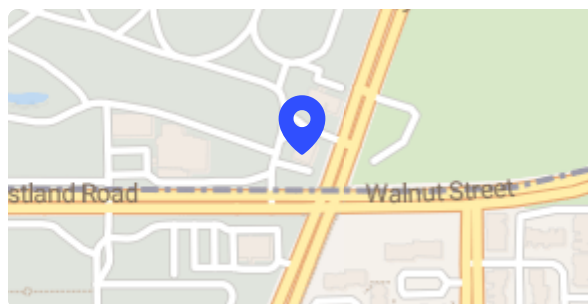


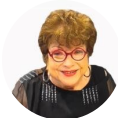
### Funeral Service

 **Thursday**, May 25, 2023

 10:00 AM CT

 **The Memorial Chapel at Restland Funeral Home**  
13005 Greenville Avenue, Dallas TX 75243





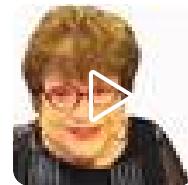
# Tribute Wall

**Dianne Franklin Alexander**

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**Restland Funeral Home And Cemetery** shared a **Webcast Video**.



May 24 at 4:31 AM



**Akira Horton** posted:

My heart goes out to you all. Your Mother was an incredible woman. She was so intelligent and Sassy. I miss her laugh and our talks. Teresa's House just isn't the same without her presence. We are always here for you. Love you dearly. - Kiki

May 24 at 2:07 PM



**City Of Mckinney Council/City Manager** sent an Arrive in Style to the Alexander family.



May 24 at 9:18 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Alexander family.



May 24 at 8:15 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Alexander family.



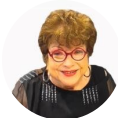
May 24 at 5:58 AM



**Anonymous** sent an Arrive in Style to the Alexander family.



May 24 at 5:56 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Dianne Franklin Alexander**

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**Anonymous** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Dianne.

May 24 at 5:56 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Alexander family.

May 24 at 5:39 AM



**Anonymous** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Dianne.

May 24 at 5:39 AM



**Anonymous** sent an Enchanted Cottage to the Alexander family.

May 24 at 4:31 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Fiery Lily and Rose to the Alexander family.

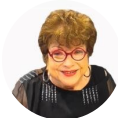
May 24 at 2:31 AM



**Anonymous** sent an Arrive in Style to the Alexander family.

May 23 at 5:43 PM





## Tribute Wall

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**Anonymous** sent an Arrive in Style to the Alexander family.

May 23 at 1:28 PM



**Anonymous** sent an Arrive in Style to the Alexander family.

May 23 at 12:29 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Country Basket Blooms to the Alexander family.

May 23 at 6:53 AM



**Deepest Sympathies, Margot** sent a Lavender Reflections Spray to the Alexander family.

May 23 at 5:50 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Fairest of All to the Alexander family.

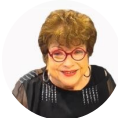
May 23 at 5:50 AM



**With Love, Wes, Cass, Ronnie And Avery** sent a Sentiments of Serenity Spray to the Alexander family.

May 23 at 4:59 AM





## Tribute Wall

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**Anonymous** sent a Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet to the Alexander family.

May 23 at 3:58 AM



**Anonymous** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Dianne.

May 23 at 3:58 AM



**Viviane & Stephanie** sent a Sweet Solace Spray to the Alexander family.

May 23 at 12:55 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Alexander family.

May 22 at 1:27 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Treasured Lilies Spray to the Alexander family.

May 22 at 9:03 AM

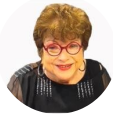


**Tracy** lit a candle in honor of Dianne.

Dianne will be forever missed. Awesome sprit and always kept you laughing.Tracy

May 22 at 8:50 AM





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**Anonymous** sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Alexander family.



May 22 at 5:29 AM



**Maggie Morgan** posted:

I met Dianne in 2011 where I was working at the Eileen Fisher store at Northpark. She looked beautiful in the clothes. We hit it off immediately, her quick wit and sarcasm were right up my alley 🤗 Our relationship grew into a great friendship. And love Dianne included me in her amazing and loving family, all of whom have the same wit and humor as Sugar. Dianne was always humble about her incredible accomplishments, what a footprint she left !!! I send all my love to Dianne's family and I will miss you, Dear Friend

May 22 at 5:26 AM



**Ashley Beverly** posted:

Growing up with the Alexander family, I spent countless hours under the love and care of Diane. She was one tough cookie with a kind, servant's heart - always caring for others. This devotion was most evident in her love for her children and the countless hours dedicated to encouraging and challenging them to pursue their dreams. She loved nothing more than being surrounded by family and close friends which she was gifted with as she took her final breath on this earth. I love you, Diane, and will be with you again one day when we'll recall many fond and funny times Erin and I adventured under your watch. With much appreciation, love and peace, Chalump

May 22 at 3:54 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Alexander family.



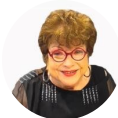
May 22 at 3:10 AM



**Barb Everett** posted:

I am so sorry about your Mom's passing, Ashley. Hugs to you and all the crew. Love you, Barb Everett

May 22 at 1:25 AM



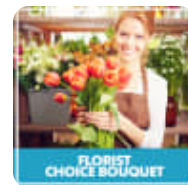
## Tribute Wall

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**Anonymous** sent a Florist Choice Bouquet to the Alexander family.



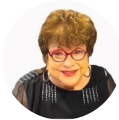
May 21 at 7:20 PM



**Lee Dean** posted:

Dianne Franklin Alexander Will, Erin, Ashley and Clay, You know how wonderful your mother was. In a sense, she helped my parents raise us as well (Lee, Glen, and Paula). They met as next-door neighbors and were friends ever since. Before Paula came along, Glen and I were often doing something weird, and it wasn't long before Dianne happened to "drop by" and my guess is she did some observation and counselling. I suspect we were test subjects as well, and all the better for it. As we all grew up, Paula and I would call her on occasion for more serious issues, and she generously gave of her time and expertise. I noticed on Facebook people mentioned her sense of humor. That was one of the things I enjoyed the most about her. She always had a wry remark or a blunt point to make, but it was always to encourage people to be better. I remember tough love and warm embraces. I remember us playing in your house or ours until we were exhausted. Then we would find our folks in the living room sitting and laughing, usually at something Dianne had said. I regret I did not keep in touch more as an adult. My mom and dad passed in 2016; the last time I saw Dianne and some of you was at my mother's funeral. Too long ago. I know some, maybe all of you share my Christian faith, and please know I am praying for you in your grief regardless. I know the pain is real, and I grieve with you. She was wonderful. Lee Dean May 21, 2023

May 21 at 1:48 PM



## Media

**Dianne Franklin Alexander**

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Restland Funeral Home And Cemetery shared a **Webcast Video**.

May 24 at 4:31 AM





## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Dianne by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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