



Paula Jean Stephenson

October 23, 1938 - September 5, 2019

Paula Jean Stephenson, age 80, of Dallas, Texas, died September 5, 2019, in Dallas, Texas. She was born October 23, 1938, in Blue Ridge, Texas, to Clifford and Velma Kemp. Her early years were spent on a farm in Collin County. The work ethic, humility and gratitude she learned there marked her for life. She married Ron Stephenson, the love of her life, in 1958, in Dallas, Texas, where they made their home. She was a devoted wife and mother first, a loyal and caring friend to many, and a beloved piano teacher for 20 years. Her piano students continued to reach out to her in later years. She tirelessly helped Dad build his company, and assumed the role of exceptional hostess for many years. Mom had the unique gift of making everyone feel welcome, valued and loved. She believed in people's good intentions with all her heart, and was constantly thinking of ways to meet the needs of family, friends and strangers. She was a Planner's Planner and had a gift for noticing and managing the smallest of details. Her checklists and project lists were legendary. In her later years, she used her time at home to stay in touch with friends from all stages of her life, writing letters, enjoying long phone conversations on her daily call list and looking forward to visits with and cooking for her grandchildren. She loved collecting and creating beautiful things, whether antiques, clocks, music, books or clothes, and in earlier years enjoyed painting landscapes. Paula was a member of Park Cities Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas, and a follower of Jesus Christ. At an early age, she was baptized at First Baptist Church in Blue Ridge, Texas, and she used her musical gifts to serve as church pianist. She held lifetime memberships in Dallas Music Teachers Association and National Music Teachers Association. She attended North Texas State University as a music major. Known as Mimi to her grandchildren, Mom loved birthday celebrations, and baked everyone's favorite cake for their special day. Her family will miss her early morning phone call on their birthdays, with her singing "Happy Birthday" with gusto. She never failed to attend recitals, performances, or awards ceremonies, and was the first to brag about her family to others. Her sacrifice knew no limits; her heart held no grudges. She will be desperately missed by those she leaves behind: her husband, Ron Stephenson; son, Eric Carlton Stephenson of New York City; daughter, Michelle Stephenson Bufkin of Dallas; son-in-law, Chuck Bufkin; daughter-in-law, Arden Stephenson; grandchildren, Morgan and Chase Bufkin; Augusta, Carlton and Jonathan

Stephenson; sister, Shirley Hendricks; numerous nieces and nephews; and friends too numerous to count. A Memorial Service to celebrate Paula's life will be held on Tuesday, September 10 at Park Cities Baptist Church, in Ellis Chapel, at 10:00 a.m. A reception will follow the service in Ellis Parlor. Parking directions are below. Parking directions to Ellis Parlor and Chapel for Memorial Services or Funerals Park Cities Baptist Church 3933 Northwest Parkway Dallas, Texas 75225 214-860-1500 Turn into the PCBC parking garage (circular drive) from Northwest Highway (Loop 12). Ellis Chapel will be on your right. Enter the garage and turn left onto level P1. Look ahead and to your right, and you will see a wall of glass windows and double glass doors. You will enter the building through these double glass doors. Ellis Parlor (where the family will gather) is then immediately on the left. Stairs leading up to the chapel are slightly ahead on the right. To go up to the chapel by elevator, walk through Ellis Parlor to its back right door. Park wherever you wish, but be aware: Do not enter the elevator bank in the parking garage—it will take you to a different building. Go through the double glass doors on the west side of the garage. Funeral arrangements for Mrs. Paula Jean Stephenson have been faithfully entrusted to Restland Funeral Home and Cemetery, which is located at 13005 Greenville Avenue, at the intersection of Restland Road and Greenville Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75243, and can be reached at (972)238-7111.