



## Paula Williams

October 30, 1952 - January 30, 2025

Paula Williams, age 72, of Umatilla, died Thursday, January 30 of complications related to a lifelong courageous battle with type one diabetes. Paula was a longtime resident who moved to rural Umatilla from Orlando almost twenty years ago, with her family, her horse and her dogs. She was a devoted follower of Christ, relying on her faith through every trial life presented.

Paula, (along with her sister, Jan) was quite the horsewoman, and enjoyed learning and competing in local dressage events around the state since her teen years. She and Jan, enjoyed the rural setting in Umatilla and having their horses on the property. Paula also loved her dogs, spent many years earning her living as a dog groomer and trained and rescued many over the years.

Paula was the youngest sister of Janice Van Houten and Shirley Burns and she will be dearly missed. She also leaves behind her brother-in-law John Van Houten, her two nieces Andrea and Meaghan, and grand-nephew Laken.

....until we meet again....

A visitation will be held on Wednesday, February 5, 2025 from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Beyers Funeral Home, 279 South Central Ave, Umatilla, FL 32784 followed by a graveside service at the Umatilla Annex Cemetery.

Arrangements entrusted to Beyers Funeral Home of Umatilla, Florida.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 5. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Beyers Funeral Home and Crematory - Umatilla  
279 South Central Avenue  
Umatilla, FL 32784  
(352) 669-2146

## Graveside Service

FEB 5. 12:30 PM (ET)

Umatilla Cemetery Annex  
Umatilla, FL 32784

# Tribute Wall

AM

“Hi, I'm Paula's niece, Andrea. I have a lot of fond memories of my Aunt Paula, though I never called her that. She only wanted to be known as Paula...and she was one of a kind. She had a dry, sarcastic wit and always spoke her mind. She never had any kids of her own, it wasn't her path, but we spent a lot of time together during my childhood and pre-teen years. During the summers she took me everywhere with her, to the barn to help take care of her horse, to the movies, to the beach, to church...or more often, we'd just hang out and listen to music or watch science fiction movies. She was a huge science fiction fan. I don't remember this specifically, but one of the stories I've always been told was about the time she came up to Mississippi when I was a little over two years old, she would have been about sixteen. She was helping my mom take care of me and I wanted her to come play with me and my stuffed animals in my room. She was watching her new favorite show, *Star Trek* and didn't want to miss it. I've heard it went something like this; “Will you come play with my stuffed animals in my room?”, I asked. “No, because they want to watch *Star Trek*”, she replied. So that's when I was told that I carried all my stuffed animals into the living room, one at a time and lined them up in front of the TV and sat down to watch as well. And with that, a two-year-old “Trekkie” was born! I will miss her, but know that I will see her again someday in Glory.

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**Andrea Mounts** - February 02, 2025 at 10:12 AM