



Paula Perkins

November 2, 1951 - February 11, 2024

Stratham- Paula Perkins, of Stratham, NH, passed away peacefully at the age of 72 on Sunday, February 11, 2024. She was born on November 2, 1951, in Lawrence, MA, to the late Anthony and Elena (Venti) Ventrillo.

To many, Paula was perhaps best known for her 34 years running the Dairy Queen on Portsmouth Avenue in Exeter, New Hampshire. A staple of the local community, Paula was there day and night, and became a familiar face to many throughout the Seacoast area. As a small business owner, Paula took great pride in her restaurant, and it showed in the excellent service she provided. She was also a caring employer who was very involved in her employees' lives and gave much advice and support.

To her family and friends, Paula was known as an unconditional supporter and someone who would give everything for those she cared about. Her willingness to listen and her compassion for all made her the beloved matriarch of her family. She always saw the best in others and encouraged them to be the best versions of themselves.

In her free time, Paula was an avid cook and entertainer. Although a gifted cook in her own right, Paula was known for her love of cooking shows, including the Barefoot Contessa and the Great British Bake Off. She found incredible joy in cooking and serving challenging recipes to her friends and

family at the holidays and year-round.

Paula was the youngest of three children, and the first member of her family to graduate from college when she graduated from the University of Massachusetts in 1972. In 1980 she and her husband at the time, DeWitt Perkins, Jr., moved to Stratham, NH and acquired the Dairy Queen.

Left to cherish her memory are her daughter Rebecca Perkins Kwoka and wife Katelyn of Portsmouth, and her son DeWitt Perkins III and wife Meredith of Atlanta, GA. She is also survived by her five grandchildren Holden Everett Perkins, James David Perkins, Logan Marie Kwoka, Colby Eva Kwoka, and Madison Page Kwoka, as well as her many cousins, nieces, and nephews. In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by siblings Barbara Ann Payos and Ralph Anthony Ventrillo, and her long-time partner Geoffrey Brackett.

Visiting hours will be held from 5-7 PM on Friday, February 16, 2024, at the Remick & Gendron Funeral Home-Crematory, 811 Lafayette Road, Hampton. A service to celebrate Paula's life will be held at 11 AM on Saturday, February 17, in the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory be made to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute by clicking here. (https://danafarber.jimmyfund.org/site/Donation2?df_id=2108&2108.donation=form1&mfc_pref=T).

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **16**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Remick & Gendron Funeral Home
811 Lafayette Road
Hampton, NH 03842
info@remickgendron.com
<http://www.RemickGendron.com>

Celebration of Life

FEB **17**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - Crematory
811 Lafayette Road ·
Hampton, NH 03842
(603) 926-6500
info@remickgendron.com
<https://www.RemickGendron.com/>

Tribute Wall

KF

“ My dear cousin Paula was a little Flower Girl at my wedding in 1957.
She was a generous and loving person who cherished her family and friends, especially her grandchildren.
It was a blessing that Paula and I got together a few years ago at a family reunion at the Atlantic Grille restaurant when I visited the East Coast. We reminisced about everything, especially the great times spent at Salisbury Beach. My deepest condolences to Paula’s children,
Rebecca and DeWitt and their spouses and children, and to all who knew and loved her. Cousins Kathi (Ventrillo) Fortinash and Kathy Susan

Katherine Firtinadh - November 04, 2024 at 06:58 PM

DC

“ Donna and the Senate Democratic Caucus planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Paula Perkins.

Donna and the Senate Democratic Caucus - February 16, 2024 at 11:21 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Paula Perkins.



February 16, 2024 at 11:21 PM

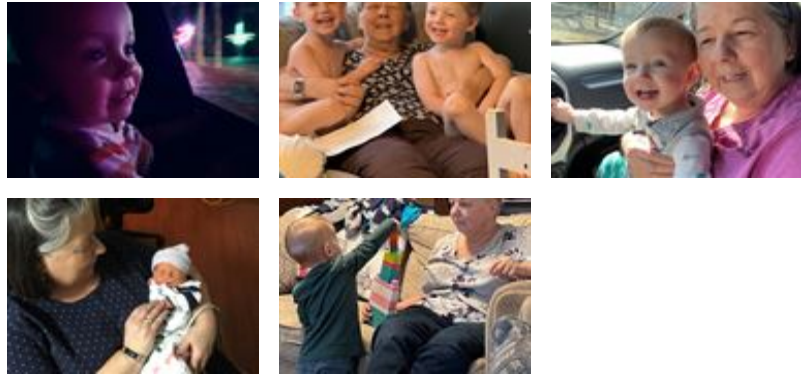


“ Samuel D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Paula Perkins.

Samuel D. - February 16, 2024 at 05:20 PM



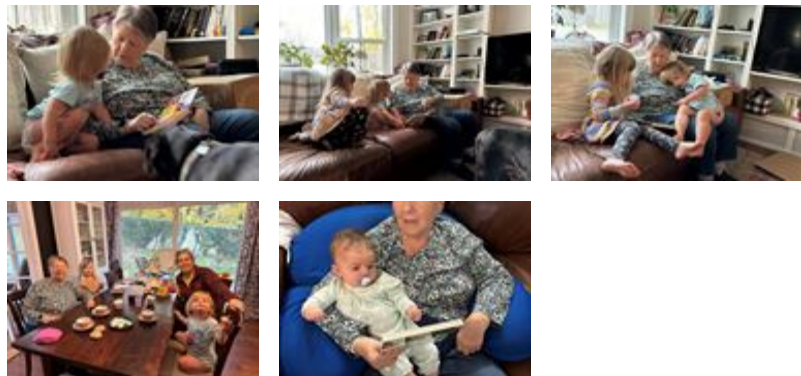
“ 18 files added to the album LifeTributes



Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - February 16, 2024 at 12:51 PM



“ 58 files added to the album LifeTributes



Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - February 16, 2024 at 08:53 AM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Paula Perkins.



February 16, 2024 at 06:08 AM



“ Wilson St.Pierre & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Paula Perkins.

Wilson St.Pierre & Family - February 16, 2024 at 06:08 AM



“ Love, Dave, Dianne & Suzanne purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Paula Perkins.



Love, Dave, Dianne & Suzanne - February 15, 2024 at 11:04 AM



“ Alie and Rob DiCarlo purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Paula Perkins.



Alie and Rob DiCarlo - February 15, 2024 at 10:53 AM

JD

“ James D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Paula Perkins.

James D. - February 15, 2024 at 09:29 AM



“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Paula Perkins.



February 15, 2024 at 09:29 AM

KF

“ I will miss my cousin Paula immensely. At age 6, she was the youngest member of my wedding party and even then she was wise beyond her years! Our last meeting was several years ago at the Atlantic Grille in NH, where our family and friends enjoyed a rare reunion together. We talked affectionately about her late siblings Barbara and Ralph and our fun times at our beloved Salisbury Beach. My brother Richard and I were extremely close to the family since Paula's Dad and ours were brothers. Paula derived so much pleasure and joy from her 5 beautiful grandchildren, as she did with her own children and their spouses. She was warm hearted, bright and loved by all who knew her. My family and I offer our deepest condolences to Paula's family and friends. Blessings, Kathi (Ventrillo) Fortinash
Menifee, California

Kathi Fortinash - February 14, 2024 at 08:54 PM

RV

I will miss you forever. Your quiet, dry wit and wisdom could light up any conversation or situation.

I remember your mom letting me hold you, a beautiful baby girl, in my arms, the first day you came home from the hospital. May you rest in a peace of satisfaction...for living a stellar life, and raising two wonderful children.

Cousin Richard

Richard Ventrillo - February 14, 2024 at 09:40 PM

LL

Though not related by blood, we were related through love. Your guidance about everything from child rearing, to relationships was always so on point. Our long conversation where you always gave me the feeling that everything was possible will be conversations I'll always hold dear in my heart and cherish forever. Your strength and quiet resilience is how I will forever remember you. I loved that i got to spend those weeks with you watching your cooking shows and coming to the conclusion that I would never, ever be a great cook(my boys can attest to that). The love that you had for your family, especially your grands, was beautiful to see and what all aspire to achieve. You will live forever in my heart ❤️

Lisa Lafata - February 15, 2024 at 08:18 AM

SA

Hey Paula, I just saw you a couple of weeks ago at Market Basket. I hadn't seen you in years from when we used to work together. I was so happy to see you, and you told me what was going on with you in your life regarding your health issues, and your grand kids. You told me you were fighting cancer, but you had something to live for with your grand kids. I will miss your smiling gentle face, and words of wisdom. May God smile upon you in heaven and I know you will bring joy to those all around you up there. Maybe we will meet again. My sincerest sympathies to your family, I know they are going to miss you.

Sandra - February 17, 2024 at 06:00 PM

EM

“ Our deepest sympathies to Becky, DeWitt, and family. We are so very sad over the loss of your mom - our long time neighbor in Stratham. We couldn't ask for better neighbors. Paula was the most welcoming and friendly person. Our two sons and Becky and Dewitt played and grew up together.

We admired Paula for her strength, love and support for her two children. She was proud of all their accomplishments.

Paula also had an incredible ability to remain calm during life's most hectic moments. It was amazing to see.

May the love of family, friends and neighbors carry you through this most difficult time.

Love, the Marceaus

Ed Marceau - February 14, 2024 at 08:37 PM

EC

“ Elvi, Lindsay, and Tim Crawford planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Paula Perkins.

Elvi, Lindsay, and Tim Crawford - February 14, 2024 at 05:32 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Paula Perkins.



February 14, 2024 at 05:32 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Paula Perkins.*



February 14, 2024 at 05:10 PM



“ *Lenny, Greg & Andie DiCarlo and families purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Paula Perkins.*



Lenny, Greg & Andie DiCarlo and families - February 14, 2024 at 05:10 PM



“ *Irene and Wayne Vojick purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Paula Perkins.*



Irene and Wayne Vojick - February 14, 2024 at 04:42 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Paula Perkins.*



February 14, 2024 at 03:54 PM

NA

“ I loved getting to know Paula through the many (many many) elections days standing outside of the polls, holding signs for Rebecca, and trying to stay warm. She was always so cheerful and ready with a smile. So much of Paula's love and kindness is embodied in her incredible daughter. Thinking of you all, and sending my love.



Nancy - February 14, 2024 at 02:03 PM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Paula Perkins.



February 14, 2024 at 01:56 PM