



## Mrs. Paula Haapoja of Hoffman Estates

April 6, 1948 - June 17, 2021

Paula A. Haapoja of Hoffman Estates passed away of natural causes on Thursday, June 17, 2021, at her home.

She was born April 6, 1948 in Springfield, MO, the daughter of the late Paul Keller and the late Martha (nee Sullivan) Keller. She graduated from Forest View High School and attended Monmouth and Harper College as well as the University of Illinois. After college Paula held several jobs in sales. Prior to retirement, she was employed for twenty years at WRMN Radio Station as a shopping show coordinator. As she loved to shop, she was a perfect fit for the job. There she made many friends and was beloved by other employees and well known in the Elgin community.

She had been married to her loving husband, Michael, for nearly fifty years. Together, they traveled extensively throughout the world, and would return to family and friends with interesting stories about beautiful destinations and different cultures. Paula had a special love for Paris having visited "The City of Lights" twelve times. Their home is filled with art, pillows and other memorabilia reflecting places they traveled. Paula also loved visiting Prague, Sorento and Rome, returning home with rosaries and medals blessed by the pope. Ocean cruises were also enjoyed by Paula and she was often called upon to lend her expertise to others as they considered various cruise options.

Paula was known to be a kind and generous person and always enjoyed family events. Having been an only child, she enjoyed being part of a large family and was especially fond of her mother-in-law. Her warm presence will be missed by friends and family alike.

She was predeceased by her parents and parents-in-law, Arthur and Maryann Haapoja and niece, Renee Mayerle.

Paula is survived by her loving husband, Michael. She is also survived by her sisters-in-law, Nancy (Alan) Harju of Buffalo Grove; Deborah (Robert) Mayerle, of Bristol; Patricia Griffith of Mount Prospect; and Judith Haapoja of Mount Prospect. She is also survived by brothers-in-law Arthur, jr. of Mount Prospect; David (Irene) of Oakwood Hills; and Thomas (Lisa) of Dekalb, IL. She also leaves behind cherished nieces and nephews; Jason (Andrea) Mayerle, Blake(Melek) Mayerle, Aaron Mayerle, Michael (Jennifer) Griffith, Shaun(Cameron) Griffith, Allison Harju, Mark Harju, Mary Haapoja and great-nieces, Lauren Mayerle, Piper, Cassidy and Violet Griffith.

Family and friends are asked to meet at Memory Gardens Cemetery on Wednesday, August 4th at 11:00 A.M. for a funeral followed by a luncheon.

# Cemetery Details

## Memory Gardens Cemetery in Arlington Heights

2501 East Euclid Avenue  
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

AUG 4. 11:00 AM (CT)

Memory Gardens Cemetery in Arlington Heights  
2501 East Euclid Avenue  
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Paula Haapoja of Hoffman Estates*

November 04, 2022 at 06:54 PM

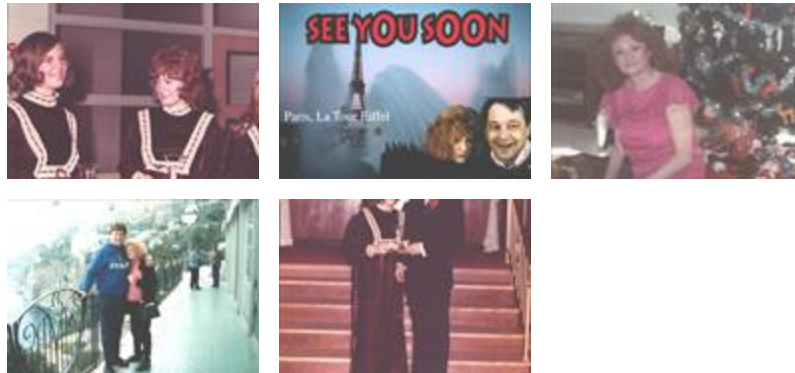


“ *It is now 11 am and I am thinking and remembering Paula, starting from when she and I were in Jr. High together until her passing earlier this summer. I will remember her always. My thoughts are with Mike and all her Family and Friends. May our memories of Paula live in and never fade!!!  
Connie Stern*

**connie stern** - August 04, 2021 at 11:10 AM



“ *8 files added to the album Paula Haapoja Photo Memories*



**Joyce** - July 26, 2021 at 06:45 PM

LH

“ *Paula and I were the not-very-crafty sisters-in-law. All of our SIL's had talents which we both admired and appreciated, but which we did not possess.*

*Our SIL Debbie has an annual gingerbread house decorating party. She has a huge table full of candies, frosting, and anything you might want or need to decorate a gingerbread house. Paula and I always sat next to each other at the party, and laughed and laughed as we clumsily attempted to decorate our gingerbread houses.*

*Paula made it okay to have no crafting skills, and we always had fun laughing at each other while we admired everyone else's beautifully decorated gingerbread houses.*

*I'll miss hearing about her travels, talking about our dogs, sharing what we were currently reading, and laughing at our shared lack of crafting skills.*

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**Lisa Haapoja** - July 20, 2021 at 07:40 PM

BS

“ *We had the pleasure of meeting Paula many years ago at one of the family celebrations at Nancy's, her sister-in-law, house. Paula was such a lovely person. Over the years, we have enjoyed talking with her and Mike about their travels to Europe. Since one of our future destinations is London and Paris, we will miss the tips and "must sees" she would have given us.*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with Mike and his family over the loss of sweet Paula.*

*Barb & Tom Sims*

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**Barbara Sims** - July 14, 2021 at 06:12 PM

DM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Debbie Mayerle** - July 09, 2021 at 04:05 PM

DM

“ We lost our Dear Paula just recently. She will always be in the hearts of our family. She was family. I remember her little green sports car early on when I first met her. It was a convertible and I recall driving it in McDonald's. That was fifty years ago. And, she and Mike would be married 50 years this December. I recall their wedding like it was yesterday. As time marched on, we all remember family gatherings and how Mike and Paula added to their enjoyment. Paula had an infectious laugh that I will never forget. She was small in stature, however, her voice was very strong. She dressed beautifully for all occasions and included the "necklaces" for almost every event that mom and I made for her. Both Mike and Paula traveled extensively, and were eager to share their experiences with anyone. I have never been to Paris (one of Paula's favorite destinations). However, when and IF I get there, I will be sure to think of her walking through the streets, shops, and museums. Yes, and if I don't get there, I will see her in my dreams.

*Debbie Mayerle*

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**Debbie Mayerle** - July 09, 2021 at 03:50 PM

NH

“ *A Tribute to Dear Sweet Paula*

*Although Paula was small in stature, she had a huge generous heart filled with kindness. She also had the most beautiful red hair I have ever seen.*

*Paula became part of our family about fifty years ago when she married my brother Mike. I am not quite sure where they met, but what I do know is although she was an only child, she seemed to easily blend into our large immediate and extended family of more than two dozen people. Paula and Mike were always part of family events, celebrations and holidays. I guess she actually enjoyed being part of a big, sometimes overwhelming, family.*

*As time went on, Paula and Mike expanded their activities, and became the family authorities on world travel, first going to various places in Mexico and then moving on to cities “across the pond” including Paris and Rome among their favorites. In more recent years they enjoyed frequent cruises, visiting many famous places throughout the world. Their home is filled with beautiful momentos they discovered in their travels as well as other treasures they found at various resale stores.*

*In the past year, as her health became more fragile, she still showed her zest for life and was making plans for the future. Whenever I called to check in with her she sounded as strong and vibrant as ever. I guess she had everyone fooled, as she slipped out of our lives too quickly.*

*I'm forever grateful to have had Paula in my life. I will always remember her strength, tenacity, kindness, caring and beautiful red hair.*

*God Bless You, dear Sweet Paula, and safe travels from a loving sister-in-law.....Nancy*

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**NANCY HARJU** - July 09, 2021 at 10:42 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Paula Haapoja of Hoffman Estates.*



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July 07, 2021 at 03:52 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Pat Griffith** - July 07, 2021 at 03:25 PM



“ *We grieve the passing of our dear Paula. The angels took her in the night.*

*We looked forward to seeing her at all the family gatherings throughout the years and enjoyed listening to her as she shared with family, the places she and Mike visited.*

*I always loved to hear her talk about the pets over the years. The stories about her little canary and the other birds were fun to hear. Her dogs were her joy.*

*She will live on in the kindness and love she shared with friends and family,*

*She will remain in our memories and hearts always.*

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**Pat Griffith** - July 07, 2021 at 03:23 PM

CS

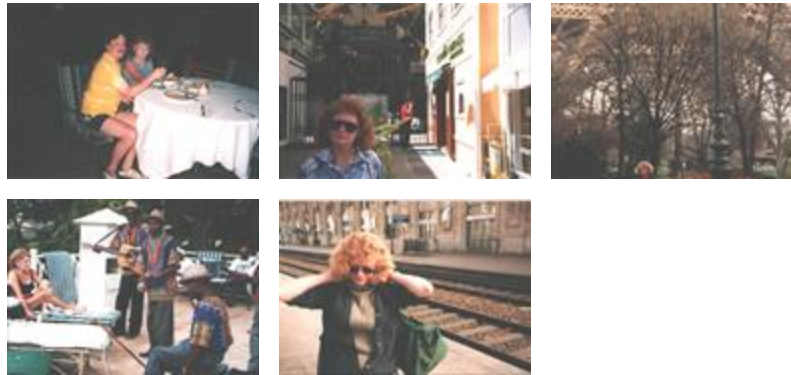
“ Paula and I met at Junior High in Deerfield Beach, Florida. We quickly became good friends and although we never lived close to each other after early high school, we loved each other always. Paula was my Maid of Honor in January 1971 and I was her Matron of Honor that year in December. We tried to see each other ever few years. I visited one summer and returned home with a Bedlington Terrier, her dog's only puppy from a litter. In later years, we saw each other almost every year before or after a cruise. I have so many memories that I will always treasure. And truly appreciate being able to share my feelings here. My love to Mike and all of Paula's Family and Friends!!  
Connie Olifiers Stern

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**connie stern** - July 07, 2021 at 02:35 PM

JB

“ 40 files added to the album Paula Haapoja Photo Memories



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**Joyce Barabicho** - July 02, 2021 at 08:08 PM



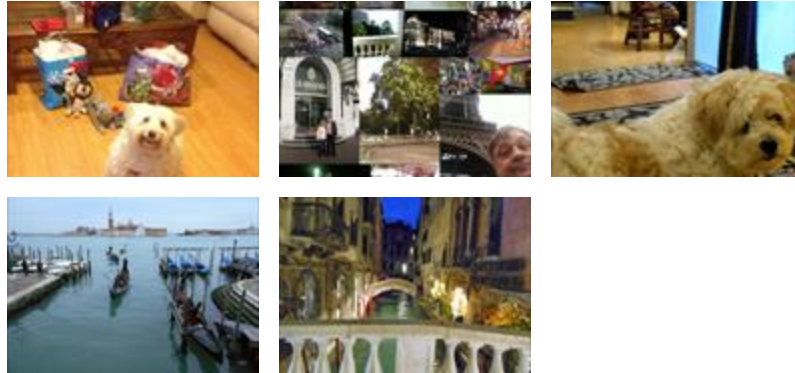
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July 02, 2021 at 08:08 PM

JB

“ 37 files added to the album Paula Haapoja Photo Memories



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**Joyce Barabicho** - July 02, 2021 at 08:07 PM