



Pauline A. Shirk

October 23, 1939 - February 12, 2026

ADRIAN- Pauline "Paula" Anna Shirk, age 86, of Adrian, Michigan passed away early Thursday, February 12, 2026, at Charlotte Stephenson Manor with her loving husband by her side.

Paula was born on October 23, 1939 in Bentleyville, Pennsylvania to Paul and Anna (Slaby) Gibbs. Paula graduated from Bentleyville High School and went on to Duquesne University in Pittsburgh where she earned a B.A. in Education in 1961. She taught for a year in Pennsylvania, but then with a dream to travel the world, she left teaching and became a stewardess with United Airlines. It was while flying for United that she met her future husband, Robert (Bob) Shirk, a frequent business traveler with W. T. Grant whose hometown was not far from hers. They married on June 27, 1964, in Pittsburgh.

After relocations to Chicago and St. Paul, Paula and Bob and their two daughters settled in Adrian in 1967, where Bob became the manager of the local Grant store and then later opened Micheal Roberts Men's Store in the Adrian Mall with Micheal Entinger. Paula returned to her first career in education and was one of the original educators at the Lenawee ISD Vocational-Technical Center (Vo-Tec) when it opened in 1970. Paula moved into administration in 1971 and earned her M.A in Education at Eastern Michigan University in 1972. Later, she earned a Ph.D. in Education Administration at the University of Michigan in 1982 and then moved to the Jackson ISD in 1984 where she became the Director of the Jackson Career Center and eventually Assistant Superintendent. At her retirement in 1998,

she was presented with a resolution from the State of Michigan for her leadership and many contributions to vocational education in the state. Paula and Bob have been active members of the community and avid supporters of many organizations, including the Croswell Opera House and the Adrian Symphony Orchestra. They enjoyed traveling together and with friends, and they especially loved Hawaii, where they had first gone on their honeymoon. Most of all, they loved the island of Kauai, where they spent many winters. Paula also loved entertaining and playing bridge and tennis and later Mah Jongg.

In addition to her husband, Paula is survived by their children, Stephanie (Steve) Olds and Michele (Tom) Shannon; granddaughter Keira Olds and brother Ron Gibbs. Paula was preceded in death by her brother, Bruce (Diane) Gibbs along with her parents.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 14, 2026, at noon at Wagley Funeral Home, Adrian. The family will be receiving friends from 10 AM until the service begins at the funeral home. Memorial contributions may be made to the Adrian Symphony Orchestra at www.adriansymphony.org . Online condolences and memories may be shared at www.WagleyFuneralHomes.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

MAR 14. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Wagley Funeral Home (Adrian)
1501 W. Maumee St.
Adrian, MI 49221
(517) 263-1400
info@wagleyfuneralhome.com
<https://www.WagleyFuneralHome.com>

Memorial Service

MAR 14. 12:00 PM (ET)

Wagley Funeral Home (Adrian)
1501 W. Maumee St.
Adrian, MI 49221
(517) 263-1400
info@wagleyfuneralhome.com
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Tribute Wall

LK

“ *Paula was a beautiful person who radiated grace. I will always remember her kindness and acceptance. Bob and Paula meant the world to my parents. I know that you will cherish your wonderful memories. My best to you all - Lisa Feeney Kridner*

Lisa Feeney Kridner - March 13 at 03:46 PM

AG

“ *Anne Gascoigne purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Pauline A. Shirk.*



Anne Gascoigne - March 12 at 10:11 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Pauline A. Shirk.*



March 12 at 04:43 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Pauline A. Shirk.*



March 10 at 01:23 PM

LB

“ Love, Mark & Brad purchased the Treasured Lilie
s Spray for the family of Pauline A. Shirk.



Love, Mark & Brad - March 09 at 10:48 AM

CG

“ Dear Paula was a member of Clipped Wings for many years. She was a loved member of the Detroit Chapter and that's where I met her over 15 years ago. She was committed to our mission to support Special Olympics Michigan. Personally she and Bob were good friends. Our group travelled to Adrien many times for meetings and lunches. Paula attended most of our meetings that were held 2 hours away with Bob driving her many of those times. We worried about her driving herself but she always managed with some help from Siri. I can hear her voice and see her sweet smile and I will never forget lovely Paula. A truly kind loving woman. My deepest sympathy to Bob and family.

Carolyn George - March 06 at 10:30 AM

RF

“ Sorry to hear of your loss. Paula was a lovely lady.

Rose Fridd - February 25 at 08:18 PM

LT

“ I got to know Paula through our work together at the JCISD. She was always supportive of women. Paula noticed that I was improving my work wardrobe. She shared her wholesale source for professional women clothing store with the caveat to avoid buying matching suits. I was pretty successful at doing so except for one suit. That suit I wore only when Paula was scheduled out of the office. Paula was a great lady and a mentor to many. I thank her for her helping me learn and grow. Fondlest of memories. Linda Tortorice

Linda Tortorice - February 20 at 08:57 AM

JG

“ Had the pleasure of waiting on Paula at the Lenawee Country Club. She was a special lady. Always treated us with respect. We had a lot of good talks of Pennsylvania. As I am from Pennsylvania also. My Thoughts and Prayers go out to Bob and their family. RIP Paula
❤️

Janet Grimes - February 16 at 10:11 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Pauline A. Shirk.



February 15 at 09:34 AM

PH

“ A lovely lady...always enjoyed visiting with Pauline at our family get-togethers. May she rest in eternal peace. Sending love to Bob, Michele & Stephanie & families. 💕

Patricia Marzke Hazel - February 14 at 02:53 PM

DG

“ *I'll never forget when Pauline and family joined us at the Gibbs family reunion in Olney, Maryland in August 2017. So much fun!* ”

Danielle Gibbs - February 14 at 02:43 PM

DG

“ *Danielle and Diane Gibbs purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Pauline A. Shirk.* ”



Danielle and Diane Gibbs - February 14 at 02:41 PM

RB

“ *So So Sorry To Hear This. She Was Always A Joy To Be Around. I WILL MISS!* ”



Randy Bender - February 14 at 05:11 AM