



Paula Jo "PJ" Hernandez

January 27, 1948 - November 3, 2025

Paula Jo "PJ" Hernandez (77), of Yakima, Washington, passed away peacefully on November 3, 2025, at her daughter's home, surrounded by the family she loved so deeply.

Born on January 27, 1948, in Fort Knox, Kentucky, Paula spent most of her life in Yakima, where she built a life defined by compassion, laughter, and devotion to those she cared for. She earned her degree in Early Childhood Education from Central Washington University and shared her passion for learning as a substitute teacher in the Naches Valley School District. Her gentle spirit and patient heart left a lasting impression on countless young lives.

Paula's greatest joy was her family. She cherished her children and her grandson and found happiness in the simple moments spent together. Her kindness extended beyond her family to every child and animal she encountered. Christmas, her favorite time of year, reflected her generous nature and the warmth she brought into every room.

She is survived by her son Stace Reich and his wife Erika; her daughter Summer Cunningham and her husband Robert; and her grandson Connor Cunningham. She also leaves behind her sisters Laura, Sheila, Susie, and Debbie; her brothers Gary and Doug; and many beloved nieces and nephews. Paula will be remembered for her loving heart, her vibrant spirit, and the joy she brought to all who knew her.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date in Yakima, Washington.