



Pauline Alford

Life Story

Pauline Florence Alford was a motivated, hard-working, dependable woman who devoted herself to her family.

Pauline was the fourth of five children born to Orrie and Pauline (LaFaniti) Jacobs in Lawrence, MI on September 9, 1933. It was a difficult time for Americans, as the affects of the depression on the economy were being felt by all. Pauline's parents owned a farm with livestock and she grew up there until the age of 16. As children, Pauline and her twin brother Paul were inseparable and he was faithful to always protect her from harm. They had one special teacher, Mrs. Pikel, who invited them over many times after school for milk and cookies- a memory they held to dearly. Due to some health issues, at age 16, Pauline moved to Kalamazoo to live with her brother Clair and his wife Amy. Amy was a wonderful woman and she and Pauline developed a close friendship that lasted a lifetime.

At a young age, Pauline developed an interest in sports, especially baseball and football. She enjoyed baseball so much she even considered trying out for the Kalamazoo Lassies. Watching sports, especially the Tigers and Lions, remained a lifelong hobby for Pauline.

After Pauline graduated from Kalamazoo Central High School she took a job at W.T. Grant Department Store. She became good friends with a co-worker named Marilyn, who eventually introduced her to her single brother, Robert, while he was on leave from serving in Korea. Robert was a handsome and kind gentleman so it was no surprise that Pauline fell instantly in love with him. The feeling was mutual and within seven short days of meeting one another the two love birds were engaged. Pauline returned the love connection favor to Marilyn by introducing her to her brother, Paul. Marilyn and Paul developed a romantic relationship which also led to an engagement. Following Robert's discharge from the Army, the two couples shared a double wedding ceremony in the midst of a snow stormy day. They were married February 11, 1956 at The First Baptist Church in Kalamazoo with Reverend Hulbert officiating. Within 9 months of marriage, Pauline and Robert joyfully welcomed to their family a baby girl they named Candace, who was followed by Terri and Patricia. Pauline stopped working when she learned of her pregnancy while Robert provided for the family by working for Duranetallic for the next 35 years.

Pauline and Robert moved around, living in Kalamazoo, Portage, and Vicksburg before settling into a home in Paw Paw. Paw Paw was ideal because it was near both of their hometowns and they wanted to raise their three girls in the country. Pauline and Robert bought a farm and enjoyed caring for their horses riding together with their girls. They also had a golf cart which Pauline and Candy often had fun with by trying to push huge bails of hay over the hills. Once Patricia, the youngest of the girls, was in school, Pauline took odd jobs like driving a school bus for Paw Paw, helping her brother with his fruit stand and working at Haskin's Western Store. Haskin's proved to be a great opportunity because she could buy their horse supplies there. Pauline was also involved with the 4H organization. She was a driven woman and

her family knew to move out of her way if she was working on something. She would work until her project was complete because getting things done was her specialty. Pauline loved housing construction, which she learned from her brother. She was a crafty woodworker but was never able to master the crochet needle. It was a family joke that her twin brother Paul got the crochet gene and not Pauline.

Pauline and Robert created many wonderful family memories like trips camping and fishing, horseback riding and biking. Their family tradition was bike riding together at night. All the bikes had lights on them and the girls couldn't wait for it to turn dark so they could head out on their bikes. Pauline and Robert also enjoyed traveling together and took advantage of every opportunity to do so, in which, together they traveled most of the United States.

Pauline was a very loving and supportive mother and she showed her devotion through always being there for her children. When Terri was in her 20's she was hospitalized on several different occasions for extended periods of time. Pauline would arrive at the hospital everyday with a new gift for Terri. Pauline was also a great cook and she also loved to bake. Her spaghetti seemed to be the family favorite and she lovingly made clothes for her kids and took time for playing games, like Kings on The Corners, with them. She and her daughter Patricia spent many hours together with a deck of Uno. Pauline also loved to play Yathzee, to go bowling and to shop! She enjoyed collecting soaps, which started when she was a young kid collecting the free soap that came in a box of Borax. Pauline also collected carousel horses and enjoyed making porcelain dolls. Pauline and her sister-in-law Marilyn often had their Christmas gifts bought and wrapped by July. This was a great benefit to her family as Pauline would often forget what she had already purchased and would buy more gifts for them.

Pauline was so excited to have grandchildren. Over the years, she became more affectionate and she loved to dote on her grandbabies. Her family was her life and she was so grateful for the relationships she held with her loved ones. Pauline and Robert were very much in love and they enjoyed each other to the fullest. Before she met Robert, Pauline had not experienced such unconditional love, she was not even sure what love was. Robert took great care of her and gave her the best life she could ever ask for. He was a protector, a provider and a soul mate. Later in their marriage, Robert grieved beside her as she mourned the loss of her best friend, Duckie and her dearly loved brother, Paul.

Pauline will always be remembered as a hard-working woman whose love for her family was evident in all she did. Her presence will be deeply missed and fondly remembered.

Pauline Florence Alford, died July 2, 2005, at Lakeview Community Hospital in Paw Paw. Pauline was preceded in death by her parents, two brothers: Clair and Paul, two sisters: Violet and Beverly. Her family includes her husband Robert, three children: Candace (Stephen) Barber of Paw Paw, Terri (Scott) Stratton of Kalamazoo and Patricia Alford of Paw Paw, Three sister-in-laws: Marilyn Filip, Amy Jacobs and Tina Alford, a brother-in-law, Ted Alford, 8 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. To learn more about Pauline's life, friends may visit with her family on Tuesday from 6:00-8:00 P.M. at the Betzler & Thompson Life Story Funeral Homes, M-40 South of I-94 Paw Paw, 657-3870, where a Celebration of Life Service will be held Wednesday at 11:00 AM. Interment Maple Grove Cemetery, Mattawan. Following the burial, food and fellowship will be shared at the family's home in Paw Paw. Please visit Pauline's personal memory page at www.lifestorynet.com where you can share a memory, order flowers, or make a memorial contribution to The American Diabetes Association or the American Heart Association.