

Paula DeBole Burkholder

Paula DeBole Burkholder passed away peacefully at home on April 11, 2026, held in loving care by her husband, Harry, their daughter, Kelly, and her brother & sister, Bruce and Gail. She was 77 years old.

In her final days she was surrounded by family and loved ones, in an atmosphere filled with love and tender care.

She was born in Baltimore in 1949 and raised in Northwood. Paula met Harry, her future husband, on a “blind date” while he was serving in the U.S. Navy and home on furlough. They married in 1972 and traveled from South Carolina to Maine while still in the service, and came home in 1974 and built a wonderful life together centered on faith, family and raising their daughter, Kelly. More recently Paula was a member of High Tide Church in Dagsboro, DE where she served helping little ones learn about Jesus, attended Bible studies and was part of the Women’s Ministry.

A graduate of Eastern High School, class of 1967, she attended Villa Julie College (now Stevenson University) for two years, and received her Bachelor’s Degree in Early Childhood Education from Towson University. Her teaching career began at Battle Grove Elementary in eastern Baltimore County and continued in Charleston S.C and Dover, N.H. Coming home to MD after the service Paula began working full-time at The Baltimore Sun in the Advertising Department.

Above all, Paula was devoted to her family. When Kelly arrived in 1979 she started working part-time and was a devoted mother, wife and homemaker. She was active in all of Kelly’s activities including school, sports, swim team and was a Girl Scout leader. She also served at church with the children’s programs and enjoyed crafts and ceramics. She was a dedicated daughter to her parents and in-laws, generously giving her time to care for and love them. She and Harry patterned a life of love and devotion that has left an enduring impact.

Paula is survived by her loving husband of 53 years, Harry Burkholder, their daughter Kelly Burkholder, her brother Bruce DeBole and her sister Gail DeBole.

The Burkholder Family will be receiving family and friends at a **Celebration of Life Service** which will be held on **Wednesday April 29th, 2026 at 11:00 AM at High Tide Church located at 28000 Nine Foot Road, Dagsboro, DE 19939. (hightidechurch.org)**

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For those living in the MD/PA area: a second such service will be held on Thursday May 7th, 2026 at 11:00 AM at Long Green Baptist Church located at 13010 Manor Road, Glen Arm, MD 21057.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made in Paula's honor to High Tide Church for the completion of the new children's classrooms & other expansion plans - More 2.0 Giving Campaign.