



Sylvia J. Heinrich

June 12, 1941 - June 29, 2026

Sylvia Heinrich, 85, of Lubbock, Texas, entered the presence of her Lord and Savior on June 29, 2026, surrounded by the family she loved so deeply. She spent her life quietly pointing people to Christ through acts of service, generous hospitality, steadfast prayer, and an unwavering love for her family. Born to Lester and Nadine Meeks in Mexico, Missouri on June 12, 1941, she grew up on the family farm where she worked with animals, gardened and even helped in the field, driving trucks during harvest before she had a license. She began school in a one-room schoolhouse and was active in 4H, band, and church. She attended Hannibal LaGrange University and graduated from the University of Missouri in 1963 with a Bachelor of Science in Education.

In 1961 Sylvia met and married Paul Heinrich in Mexico, Missouri. They had four children while living in Columbia and Paul working for Mizzou. In 1972, recruited by the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center, Sylvia and Paul moved the family to Lubbock, Texas. There they built a home that became known for backyard barbecues, laughter, open doors, lasting friendships, and unconditional love. For thirty-eight years, Sylvia and Paul faithfully walked through life together, building a family rooted in faith, prayer, love, and laughter. After Paul's death in 1999, Sylvia carried that foundation forward with remarkable strength and faith. She continued to lead her family, invest deeply in the lives of others, and ensure that the home and values they built together would endure for generations.

She was an active church member her whole life, most recently attending Westminster Presbyterian Church where she participated in Sunday school, Golden Girls and church leadership, serving as a session elder. In retirement, her heart for local and international ministry blossomed. She noticed needs that others overlooked. Whether it was a warm meal, a handwritten note, a prayer offered on the spot, or opening her home to anyone who needed encouragement, Sylvia quietly reflected the love of Christ in ordinary moments. She volunteered faithfully in multiple benevolence ministries and went on several mission trips. She had an extraordinary ability to make every person feel like family.

Sylvia was a homemaker and bookkeeper, but her all-time favorite job was caring for people's pets. She often visited more than required and stayed longer than needed because she genuinely loved every animal entrusted to her care, and they seemed to love her just as much. She rarely missed an opportunity to support her children, who were her pride and joy, serving as band parent, Girl Scout leader, student trip sponsor, youth worker, and cook for any and every event. A lifelong sports fan, she cheered for both Missouri and Texas teams, but everyone knew her heart belonged to the Lady Raiders. Summer afternoons at Grandma's pool became treasured family traditions. The backyard echoed with laughter, splashing children, backyard meals, and conversations that stretched long after sunset. Countless children came to know her simply as Grandma, Fluffy, Abuela, or G-Ma, and she loved every one of them as her own.

Nothing brought Sylvia greater joy than watching her family grow. She is survived by her four children - Kim and Steve Kaufmann, Mark and Carrie Heinrich, Paula Heinrich, and Lisa and Jerry Ramirez; her sister-in-law Karen Bennett and her husband Bob; five grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Paul; her parents, Lester and Nadine Meeks; and her sister, Wanda.

The family wishes to express deep gratitude and love to the staff and caregivers from BeeHive Assisted Living and Hospice of Lubbock.

While her family grieves her absence, they rejoice in the assurance that her faith has become sight. Her greatest desire was that those she loved would know Jesus Christ, and her family celebrates the assurance that she now hears the words she longed for all her life: "Well done, good and faithful servant."

A celebration of life service will be held on Friday, July 3rd at 10:30 at First Baptist Lubbock in the Ford Chapel. Family visitation will be held on Thursday, July 2nd from 5:00 to 6:30 at Sanders Funeral Home in Lubbock. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial gifts to <https://spfood2kids.org> , a ministry making a huge impact in Lubbock that reflects Sylvia's lifelong heart for serving kids.

Cemetery Details

City of Lubbock Cemetery

2011 E 31st Street
Lubbock, TX 79404

Upcoming Events

Visitation

JUL 2. 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM (CT)

Sanders Memorial Chapel
1420 Main Street
Lubbock, TX 79401

Funeral Service

JUL 3. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Ford Memorial Chapel-First Baptist Church
2201 Broadway
Lubbock, TX 79401

Tribute Wall

AW

“ Chuck and I send our love, thoughts, and prayers to all of the Heinrich family. Sylvia was an amazing lady. We have many wonderful memories of small group meetings at her and Paul’s house, and baptisms in their pool. Though we grieve with you, we also rejoice that she is happy and whole now.

Ann Williams - 1 hour ago

BM

“ Bob and Arlene Mears purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Sylvia J. Heinrich.



Bob and Arlene Mears - 2 hours ago