



Shay Marie McDonald

December 12, 1971 - July 13, 2024

On Saturday, July 13, 2024, Shay Marie Albanese McDonald passed away at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital in Denton, TX after a tough battle with cancer at the age of 52. She was born on December 12, 1971 in Houston, TX at St. Luke's Hospital to Michael and Linda (Pilgreen) Albanese.

She graduated with her Bachelor's and teaching certificates from Stephen F. Austin University in 1994, and then with her Master's from Lamar University in 2023. She taught for 25 years at both secondary and elementary levels.

She was the best mother anybody could ask for, and her entire life was devoted to helping her children live happy and successful lives. She was very funny, and kind, and intelligent, and she was the most sociable introvert you'd have ever met. Everywhere she went she made friends, and she was always putting 100% of her effort into anything she did. One of her most important accomplishments was winning a baby loblolly pine tree from NASA, whose sapling had once flown on one of the original Artemis missions. It was planted outside Kay Granger Elementary School, where she had worked for the past 17 years since it first opened in 2007.

Shay is survived by her mother, Linda Albanese; son, Cauner Iain McDonald and wife Julie McDonald; daughter, Raegen Gaites McDonald and her son Aiden Dylan McDonald; aunts, Elaine Scheffler and Vivian Eugenia Pilgreen

Crush Supak; cousins, Brandy K Eubanks and Christopher A Pilgreen; and numerous friends and coworkers.

She was preceded in death by her maternal grandparents, Guy Eugene Pilgreen and Ruth Autry Pilgreen; and uncle, Guy Eugene Pilgreen II.

On-line condolences may be shared at www.slaymemorialfuneralhome.com.

Arrangements are under the direction of Terri Slay and Slay Memorial Funeral Center.

Tribute Wall

AH

“ I was a student of hers in 4th grade, and good friends with her kids, Aidan and Reagan Mcdonald. Just found out about this happening earlier this week and I've just been in shock over this tragic event. Mrs.Mcdonald was a memorable and great teacher in the grade I had under her, and one of my favorite teachers I've had during my time in NISD. This loss is one which is especially horrible having to go through, and if either Aidan or Reagan Mcdonald read this, I truly hope that you've been alright and are able to recover throughout all this. I hope you two know that I still hold the friendships I had with you dearly.

Adam Hixenbaugh - August 26, 2025 at 01:47 AM

JS

“ Shay and I were friends our entire lives. We were sweethearts in elementary school and remained the best of friends the rest of our lives. My heart is broken, I last spoke to her on July 8th and as typical for her she was concerned more about me and the hurricane we had coming in than herself. Love you and will miss you my friend.

Jeff Stewart - July 29, 2024 at 02:04 PM

VW

“ I only knew Shay for a short time..but the time I had with her she was very kind and funny.

I offer my condolences to all of you! Vickie webb



Vickie webb - July 23, 2024 at 09:49 PM