



Letitia Leon Baron Jendras

June 19, 1942 - December 15, 2025

Letitia Leona Baron Jendras was born June 19, 1942 in Chicago, IL to Leon and Jenny Baron. As the third daughter born into the family, she was doted on by her two older sisters, Gerrie and Cynthia. Letitia admired and loved her sisters deeply and spent many long hours talking on the phone since neither of them lived in close proximity. Oh, the long-distance phone bills!

She met her husband, Ronald Jendras, also in Chicago and they married in January, 1964. They went on to have two children, Jay and Cheryl. Ron worked for the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad and that job uprooted them from Chicago to McComb, MS and then to Southaven, MS. This was a major culture shock to the little family of four as there were no family or friends awaiting them. Though it was new and different, everyone adapted and grew to love McComb. After five years there, the family moved to Southaven, MS. New friends were made and they were hours closer to parents and siblings. Letitia was very involved in her children's lives and was a school volunteer and chauffeur to all activities for Jay and Cheryl.

Letitia was a devout Catholic and became involved in the church as a lector and Eucharist minister, among other volunteer rolls. She helped in the RCIA program to encourage and teach the Catholic faith to people interested in becoming Catholic. As told by many, she deeply touched the lives of those who wished to join the church.

At a much later age, Letitia began a program at DeSoto Athletic Club called Silver Sneakers. This program allowed her access to gym equipment, coaches and her beloved "Escape Room", actually called a Relaxation Pod. The DAC gave her purpose, confidence and friendships that made her thrive. There is no doubt the DAC added years to her life and even though she had ice skated for many years in Chicago, this was a new and exciting way to meet new people and get in shape. Her personal trainer, Joel Curtis, became a friend as he gently pushed her to become a healthier and stronger person and possibly a little sassy.

Even with the benefits of going to the DAC, age and some health issues came and after a sudden illness, her little body couldn't handle the acuteness of her illness. She went to be with Jesus peacefully Monday, December 15, 2025 at 3:45 a.m. Being the night owl she was, this was not surprising.

Though her time on Earth is over, she will be remembered as a faithful wife to Ron, an extraordinary woman who loved, encouraged and supported her children and let's not even get started about her granddaughters, Magen Houston and Mallory Benson. She was so proud of them and left an indelible mark on their lives. There was no doubt of the love she had for her family and faith as she was positive until the end.

Letitia was preceded in death by her husband, Ron, her parents, Leon and Jenny Baron and most recently, her sister, Geraldine Strauch. Her in-laws, Alex and Wilma Jendras also preceded her in death. The Jendras family took her in and treated her as one of their own. She loved all of her brothers-in-laws and their wives and children. She was easy to be with and a lot of fun. The trivia she knew! The game shows she loved! The music she loved! All shaped and helped make her the person she was. God definitely gave Letitia the gift of gab and she was extra good at it.

Letitia leaves behind her children, Jay Jendras and his wife Fran, of Eudora, MS, her daughter, Cheryl Bass and her husband, Mark of Nesbit, MS, her granddaughters, Magen Houston of Southaven, MS and Mallory Benson and her husband, Patrick of Bertram, TX. She also leaves behind her sister, Cynthia Grieshop of Lake Forest, IL. She shared a special bond with her nieces and nephews and impacted their lives in a positive way. Letitia was a bright light to this place we call home but she will be an even brighter light in heaven and people left on this earth are better for having known and loved her.

A Memorial Mass will be held at Christ the King Catholic Church Saturday, December 20, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. Any donations can be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Christ the King Catholic Church or Tunica Humane Society.