



Florence "Babe" Andreas

March 5, 1932 - February 9, 2026

Florence "Babe" Paladino Andreas, 93, passed peacefully into eternal life on February 9, 2026. She was born March 5, 1932, at the family home in Center Ridge, Arkansas. The youngest of 17 children in the close-knit Catholic Point community, she attended Catholic Point School and St. Scholastica Monastery of the Benedictine Sisters in Fort Smith, Arkansas. Most important in her life were her family and her faith.

Left to cherish her memory are her two sons, Gary T. Andreas of Houston and Kenneth E. Andreas and his wife Gail of Carrollton, with many beloved nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Mrs. Andreas was preceded in death by her devoted husband of 62 years, Edward P. "Eddie" Andreas; her parents, Tony (Antonio Barbarto) and Minnie (Ermenia) Rossi Paladino; her brothers Frank, Father Christopher, Paul, Johnny, Andrew, Henry, Joe, and Larry Paladino; her sisters Mary Rossi, Frances DeSalvo, Sr. Lucille Paladino, Amelia Whitten, and Henrietta Rowland; and many other cherished family members.

At home in Arkansas, Florence was affectionately known as Babe, the beautiful and graceful youngest daughter of the large Italian Paladino family in Catholic Point. Beauty was a recurring theme throughout her life. At age 20, she was crowned Arkansas State Cotton Queen, a prestigious and fitting honor. Her innate grace and warmth made every space she entered more welcoming. Her nieces and great-nieces often said they wanted to grow up to be just like Aunt Babe.

The heart of the Paladino home revolved around the kitchen and dining room, sparking Babe's lifelong passion for cooking and entertaining. She carried this joy into adulthood, in Houston and eventually Spring, Texas where she and Eddie made their home and raised their family. She was well versed in hosting memorable holiday parties and weekly bridge games with longtime friends well into her eighties. Her signature dishes, including Stuffed Shells, Beef Burgundy, and Rum Cake, delighted generations. Her love of flowers likely began with the daffodils that blanketed her childhood home and still bloom there today. Her own yard was always vibrant, and fresh floral arrangements graced her home year-round. In addition to her love of cooking, gardening and entertaining, Babe could be found cheering for the Houston Astros- she was a devoted baseball fan.

Eddie, a career pilot, and Babe traveled extensively throughout their lives, enjoying trips to Italy, Cozumel and Hawaii, as well as many other destinations. They often traveled back to Arkansas for extended stays to enjoy celebrations and reunions with siblings and their families.

She worked professionally for 22 years as secretary to the principal at Hildebrandt Intermediate School in Spring, Texas, where they affectionately called her Flo, known for her sense of style and cherished for her wisdom, guidance, and friendship, among teachers and students alike.

The family extends heartfelt gratitude to Mimi's Angels in Spring, Texas, for the compassionate care they provided during her final years.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Joseph Catholic Church, 343 Catholic Point Rd., Center Ridge, AR 72027.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at her home parish, St. Joseph Catholic Church in Catholic Point, Center Ridge, Arkansas, on Tuesday, February 17, 2026. Visitation will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., followed by the Rosary at 9:30 a.m. and Mass at 10:00 a.m. Burial will follow in the St. Joseph Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

St. Joseph Cemetery

Center Ridge, AR

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 17. 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM (CT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
343 Catholic Point Rd.
Center Ridge, AR 72027
(501) 893-2889

Rosary

FEB 17. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
343 Catholic Point Rd.
Center Ridge, AR 72027
(501) 893-2889

Funeral Mass

FEB 17. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
343 Catholic Point Rd.
Center Ridge, AR 72027
(501) 893-2889

Tribute Wall

“For over two decades, Flo Andreas was the warm and welcoming heart of Hildebrandt Intermediate School. As the beloved school secretary, she touched countless lives with her kindness, efficiency, and dedication. Below are reflections her colleagues have shared of a remarkable woman who made every day brighter.

“A gracious, classy friend with a wicked sense of humor and a twinkle in her eye.”

“Flo set an exemplary example of grace, patience, genuine concern and class”.

“A force for GOOD at Hildebrandt.”

“She saved the day every day, and with a smile, brought order to our messes.”

“The perfect administrative secretary: poised, classy, impeccably dressed, and so knowledgeable”

“Over the years, scores of people came to the Front Office, and Flo dealt with them with dignity, poise, professionalism and Southern charm that gave each visitor a positive memory of Hildebrandt. That was never a surprise to any of us because she handled us with that same grace.”

“The glue that held our school together.”

“We loved to drink our special “Pepsi” together with Flo and hear her wonderful throaty laugh.”

“The most beautiful friend who loved me and my family. She was my constant who I could count on for a laugh or the truth! What a treasure of memories I have to hold onto.”

“Hildebrandt was a family, and Flo was our matriarch.”

*It was an honor and a privilege to work with you, Flo, and to count you as our friend. We all love you and hold you in our hearts.
Your Hildebrandt Family*

Your Hildebrandt Family - February 16 at 09:25 PM

KE

“ *Kenny and Patty English purchased the Heartfelt Tribute Lavender & White Floor Basket Arrangement for the family of Florence "Babe" Andreas.*



Kenny and Patty English - February 13 at 04:02 PM

GA

“Moms faith was first and foremost in her life. She loved and Cherished her dear friends in Houston Whether it was just a visit to sit and chat, the wine was always flowing, and the laughter was consistent. She loved entertaining and cooking and sharing recipes talking about her family and growing up in Center Ridge sharing the stories of her life with her mother and father and her sisters and brothers and especially her life with Etta and Amelia. Mom also told me that Frances Was like a mother to her when she was a child and she cherished her and held her in such high regard. Mom loved gardening And working in the yard due to her love of flowers and nature. Mom's faith Was the embodiment of who she was as a person and as a mother. In her last days I reminded her when I was a little boy before she tucked me in bed at night how she taught me how to kneel and to pray teaching me my prayers. I reminded her that her legacy will go on and that she will never be forgotten. She knew how proud I was of her, how much I appreciated and loved her, and how important she was to me. I am so blessed that I spent so much time with her as a child. Experiencing so many amazing moments in our lives as a child and as an adult Having so many amazing memories and cherishing the love that she always showed me. I always had her up on a pedestal And in our last moments I explained to her That she was so important to me and to so many other people that were in her life especially her nieces and nephews and dearest friends. I thank God For allowing me to have the most amazing woman that was my mother And I will cherish every single moment, never letting go of her.

Gary T Andreas - February 13 at 02:50 PM



“ *Lavender & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Florence "Babe" Andreas.*



February 13 at 02:46 PM