



Dr. Paul R. Palmer

July 21, 1927 - March 27, 2016

Paul Richards Palmer was born to George and Ethel Palmer on the family farm in Washington Mills, NY on June 21, 1927. He passed away peacefully on March 27, 2016 at St. Camillus Health Center in Syracuse, NY. Paul worked arduously in pursuit of his goals supported by his family. He will be greatly missed by family, friends, colleagues and all whose lives he touched in so many ways. Paul was a 1945 graduate of Chadwicks High School in Chadwicks, NY. With a work ethic instilled by hours working the farm and inspiration from his local family doctor to pursue a career in medicine, he attended Union College. He majored in Biology and Psychology and became his family's first college graduate in 1949 before joining the US Army and serving in the first MASH unit. Paul and his beloved Peggy Roberts married on June 9, 1951. Paul graduated from New York Medical College in 1954. Residency training in Family Practice at Upstate and St. Joseph's hospital brought the family to Syracuse. In 1957, he and Dr. Eugene Bluto founded Bluto and Palmer PC in Camillus, which later became Family Care Medical Group. Realizing a service gap in the continuum of care in the community, Dr. Palmer was a co-founder of St. Camillus in 1969. He retired from full-time practice in 1994.

Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Palmer was a serious, comprehensive, determined, compassionate care-giver and advocate for his patients in many ways representing the prototypical Family Doctor who made house calls with his "little black bag" always nearby. He was passionate about education and spent countless hours teaching and mentoring undergraduates, medical students and residents. He directed Family Medicine Resident Education at Community hospital for nearly thirty years and served as a volunteer clinical faculty member at SUNY Upstate teaching medical students his entire career. He often said that having a student in the office added two hours of work but that these were the most meaningful hours of the day.

Dr. Palmer was honored as the NYS Family Practice Doctor of the year in 1985 and the NYS Academy of Family Physicians Educator of the Year in 1996. He served on various committees at SUNY Upstate through the years, the most rewarding of which was his time on the Medical School admissions committee. In 1992, he was awarded the SUNY

President's award for volunteer faculty. Dr. Palmer was active with the Onondaga County Medical Society as well as both the NYS and American Academies of Family Physicians he served as Acting Medical Director of Community General Hospital in the late 1990's. He also volunteered at clinics throughout CNY. Most of all, Dr. Palmer cherished his unofficial work as advocate for, mentor to and friend of scores of students and young physicians throughout his career and into his retirement.

Above all, Paul was a devoted husband, father, uncle and friend to many. Even with the demands of his career he never missed a game, concert or activity his children were participating in. Paul was active in his faith community as a member of Camillus Baptist Church and later Fairmont Community Church, United Church of Christ serving in multiple positions of leadership. His most precious moments were spent with his family around the dinner table, at Otisco Lake or in Fort Meyers Beach, FL. His enthusiasm for all Syracuse University sports was omnipresent, he never missed an opportunity to don the Orange gear and was a football and basketball season ticket holder for decades.

Paul was predeceased by his parents and his older brother George. His adoring wife of 64 years, Peggy, predeceased him in August 2015.

He is survived by a large loving family and lasting legacy including their three children Tracey and George Carruth of Syracuse, Susan Grady of Newburyport, MA and Paul and Kathy Palmer of Mendon, NY. He was Papa to seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, Catherine Carruth, Bryant and Kate Carruth, Erin and Jordan Hathaway, Brendan Palmer, Chris and Rachel Grady, Jared (Wendy Marone) Palmer, Kelly Palmer, Jack, Will and Abigail Carruth and J. Hunter Hathaway. He is further survived by special loved ones Juan and Terry Becerra and family, many friends, cousins, nieces, nephews and in-laws. Paul's family wishes to thank the very caring and compassionate caregivers at St. Camillus and Central NY Hospice for their respect for human dignity and kindness.

Friends may call on Thursday May 5, 2016 from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 pm at B. L. Bush and Sons Funeral Home, Camillus, NY. Funeral services will be held at Fairmont Community Church on Friday May 6, 2016 at 10:30 am. Burial will be private at Maplewood Cemetery in Camillus.

The family requests, if you care to make a donation, that it be in Paul's name to the Dr. Paul R. Palmer Scholarship in Family Practice Fund # 662 at the Upstate Foundation, Inc. 750 E. Adams Street, CAB 326 Syracuse, NY 13210 or Fairmont Community Church, 4801 West Genesee Street, Syracuse, NY 13219.

Please sign the guestbook at www.BLBUSH.com

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 5. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

B.L. Bush & Sons Funeral Home
10 W. Genesee Street
Camillus, NY 13031
(315) 672-3400
info@bushfuneralhome.com
<https://www.bushfuneralhome.com/>

Visitation

MAY 5. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

B.L. Bush & Sons Funeral Home
10 W. Genesee Street
Camillus, NY 13031
(315) 672-3400
info@bushfuneralhome.com
<https://www.bushfuneralhome.com/>

Service

MAY 6. 10:30 AM (ET)

Fairmount Community Church
126 S. Terry Road
Syracuse, NY 13219
(315) 487-8521
fccuccoffice@gmail.com
<https://www.oneworshipingcommunity.org>

Tribute Wall

VK

“ *Dr Paul Palmer had been very kind to me during my residency when I was posted to community hospital.
I am an immigrant
He was a true American teacher in whose presence everyone can bloom
Hats off
He will be ever remembered by all who knew him*

Vasudevan Kidambi - January 01, 2017 at 12:40 PM

CM

“ *To Dr. Palmer's Family,*

Myself and my entire family were patients of Dr. Palmer and Dr. Bluto when they opened their practice on Kasson Road. I was 4 years old when I started going to them in 1968. I was 30 the last time I was seen by Dr. Palmer. He was the best. We loved him and Dr. Bluto, they were there for every cold, childhood illness, my sister's tonsils, you name it, they treated us for it! I remember especially, so vividly, when my Grandmother became gravely ill overnight, my Mom called Dr. Palmer and within 15 min. he was at our door with his black bag to check her out. She had a stroke in her sleep, he checked her over, called the ambulance, called ahead at the hospital and followed us there to treat her himself with the other attending staff. She made an almost complete recovery because of him. He was the most compassionate doctor I have ever known. We are so sorry for your loss, as well as the community's - there are few that could or can replace him. Our family is grateful to have had him a part of our lives.

*Bless his memory and our deepest sympathy to you,
- The Maurillo Family, Onondaga Hill*

Cynthia Maurillo-Garrow - May 06, 2016 at 12:17 PM



“ *4 files added to the album LifeTributes*



B.L. Bush & Sons Funeral Home / Monuments - May 05, 2016 at 04:44 PM



“ 191 files added to the album LifeTributes



B.L. Bush & Sons Funeral Home / Monuments - May 04, 2016 at 10:21 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Paul R. Palmer.



May 02, 2016 at 02:09 PM



“ Our sincerest condolences on your loss

The Zambon sisters (Doris, Helen, Margaret, Mary, Sandra)

The Zambon sisters - April 17, 2016 at 04:21 PM



“ Barbara Cooper lit a candle in memory of Dr. Paul R. Palmer



Barbara Cooper - April 12, 2016 at 12:29 PM



“ Dr. Paul Palmer was a wonderful role model for all physicians in Onondaga County and beyond. I knew him best thru his work in the County Medical Society. He will be missed!

Love and prayers,

Patricia A. Randall, MD and Stanley P. Meltzer, MD

Patricia A. Randall, MD - April 09, 2016 at 04:44 PM

CG

“ Tracey and family,
Your dad will be missed! My thoughts and prayers go out to you!
Cathy Goldthwait
St. Camillus

Cathy Goldthwait - April 08, 2016 at 08:01 AM

MH

“ I have many wonderful memories at Paul's parents' home during my growing up years. Since I was younger, Paul was away during most of this time. Fortunately, I was able to get to know his brother George and wife extremely well. Paul's and George's mother, Ethel, was my mother's first cousin. (Their moms were sisters.) So that's the background. Now, when my mother was in her late 50's, she was diagnosed with a brain tumor and told by a Utica oncologist that she should "get her affairs in order," since there was no way to successfully operate on her tumor. Of course, my mom immediately called Paul, who directed her to a top-notch surgeon at Syracuse Upstate Medical (can't think of his name at this point), who in fact successfully operated on her tumor twice - once after the initial diagnosis, and again seven years later when it began to grow back. After the second surgery, she lived another twenty+ years with no additional trouble from it. My children would never have known their grandmother had Paul not successfully intervened. He and Peggy also attended a number of milestone celebrations for both of my parents, and I was able to connect with them during those times. Plus, my parents always kept me up-to-date on awards he won, newspaper articles about him, when he retired, etc. Your dad even hand-wrote me a rather lengthy letter about a dozen years ago regarding my son's possible interest in hospital work. He truly was a wonderful, compassionate, and very dear man, as well as a highly talented and knowledgeable physician. You are so fortunate he was your dad!

Marilyn Held, Albany, NY

Marilyn Held - April 07, 2016 at 02:29 PM

RB

“ Our family was sent to Drs and Bluto by Dr Keefe in the village shortly after they started their practice on Kasson Road to insure we had a doctor after he retired. They both were dedicated to their calling and the community. Our deepest sympathy to all of you.

Ray and Belle Brown

Ray and Belle Brown - April 07, 2016 at 03:44 AM

BC

“ And so we have lost another of the greatest generation. To know Dr and Mrs Palmer was to know warmth kindness and open arms, for they treated all of us like family. Every year the annual instalation of the boat hoist meant the privilege of water skiing, tubing and best of all Mrs Palmers home cooking. One summer day Paul Jr had a bunch of us out tubing. As we finished up Paul was bringing the boat in when Mike Sheridan decided this would be a good time to jump out of the boat. Before Mike hit the water, Dr Palmer had put down the Herald and was on the dock as we pulled in. It meant another trip to the Kasson road office for stitches and another stern lesson from one of the best country doctors I knew. So Dr Palmer pick up your clubs and play once again with your favorite golfing partner. Peace
Tracy, Sue, Paul and grandchildren all my love and prayers.

Brian Coyne - April 06, 2016 at 10:28 AM

KT

“ Dr Palmer was always very welcoming and gracious. I have many fond memories of time spent out at the lake and at the Palmer home. Paul, Sue, Tracey and all the grandchildren, and extended family my thoughts are with you all. A full life well lived!

Kris Tierney

Kris Tierney - April 05, 2016 at 08:59 PM

DM

“ Dr. Palmer could determine what ailed you in fifteen minutes. That feat today takes two weeks and \$30,000.00. He saved my life more than once.

Don Martin - April 05, 2016 at 10:36 AM

SR

“ I personally did not know Dr Palmer but he cared for my Dad, Bob Ryan, for many years. A personal encounter for our family was this story. Dad suffered one heart attack after the other a very short period of time. My brother was getting married in several weeks and we were all disappointed that Dad would not be able to attend the Mass. Dr Palmer called my dad and said he thought it would be less stressful if he went to the ceremony and he would be glad to go with him. We had made other arrangements but this dimension of compassion always has stayed with me. I was a nurse for over 40 years and you do not see this type of caring often. I am sure there are many similar stories. Peace be in your hearts. Sister Johanna Ryan, CSJ Latham, NY

Sister Ryan - April 04, 2016 at 07:51 PM

DR

“ They were my childhood doctors. I remember house calls and allergy treatments. The tribute in the obituary is a great one. It says it well honors him well

Don Remick - April 04, 2016 at 07:41 PM

DM

“ Our condolences to Dr Palmer's family. My parents (in their 80s) took my 3 sisters and me (56) to Dr Palmer who was our primary care doctor. We have fond memories of Dr. Palmer and his practice who treated us as family. I can still remember visiting and it set the standard in my mind on how care should be given. Never rushed or hurried and always patient centric. They don't make them like Dr. Palmer any more he was someone special in the field of medicine and he will be missed.

Drew McNichol - April 04, 2016 at 03:02 PM

JO

“ Mrs. and Mr. Carruth, Catherine, and Bryant,
My deepest and sincerest condolences and sympathies is this most difficult of times. Dr. Palmer was such a wonderful and caring man - and always welcomed me as one of his own, as I know he did with anyone else you ever brought into his life. He had such a way of making everyone feel special and loved, and I know that he is now with Mrs. Palmer, looking down and over you all.
So much love and many hugs,
Jaime Arnold O'Connor

Jaime Arnold O'Connor - April 03, 2016 at 05:09 PM

SB

“ He was a great doctor to my family. We went to him when I was in my teens (now 71).
Also member of Fairmount Community Church. Remember him well. My thoughts are with the family and may he RIP. God Bless.

Sherry Bailey Bench - April 03, 2016 at 03:18 PM

TG

Was the kind of Doctor everyone desires.

Thelma gannon - April 04, 2016 at 07:31 PM

DN

“ A wonderful doctor and caring man. My heart goes out to his family.

Doreen Norris - April 03, 2016 at 02:28 PM

LM

“ Dr. Palmer was Chair of the Department of Family Medicine at Community General Hospital when I became Chair of the Department of Pediatrics. He graciously invited me to share common interests with him and his department, and I was glad to reciprocate. We were fine colleagues, and his knowledge and experience were resources that helped us all to care for our hospitalized patients. He will be missed.

*Leonard Levy, M..D.
Dewitt, NY*

Leonard Levy, MD - April 03, 2016 at 12:25 PM

JR

“ What a wonderful man! He was always smiling, caring & treated everyone like family. He will be missed. I had the privilege of working for him in the medical staff office while he was acting medical director at Community General Hospital. What an honor to have known him!

Joan Russell - April 03, 2016 at 06:52 AM