



Paula A. Duarte

May 24, 1962 - May 25, 2025

Paula A. (Smith) Duarte of Fabius passed away on May 25th 2025. She was born in Community General Hospital in Syracuse on May 24th, 1962. Her parents, Dawn and Otis Smith resided on a dairy farm in Tully at the time of her birth. Paula attended and graduated from Fabius Pompey School in 1980. She joined the Army for a short time and then attended Crouse School of Nursing and graduated in 1985.

It was in nursing that she found her true passion. Nursing was both challenging and rewarding for her, and she took pride in helping people. She worked at Crouse Hospital, Community General (Upstate) Hospital, Cortland Memorial Nursing Care facility, private doctors' offices as well as Home Care. Interesting to mention, she did a full circle at Community Hospital - where she was born, worked, and passed.

In 2018, her career abruptly ended when she became sick and diagnosed with MS. This disease took over her body, crippling her and causing endless pain. Through all of this her brain remained active and alert. Her final years she was cared for by her unconditionally loving husband.

A passion of her family was animals, they provided a haven for many dogs and a few stray cats; sick, neglected or old and just needed a comforting home to lay their head.

Paula was predeceased by her parents, L. Dawn Smith in 1969 and E. Otis Smith in 2006.

She is survived by the love of her life, her husband, Kevin Duarte of Apulia Station; her greatest blessings, her two daughters, Rebecca (Liam) O'Neill of Connecticut, and Samantha Duarte (James Andrews) of Fabius. Paula also leaves behind five siblings, three cherished grandsons, and numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins, all of whom hold loving memories of her in their hearts.

At Paula's request, there will be no services. Paula gave in death as she gave in life, her final act was to being an organ/tissue donor.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations in her memory to the Cortland County SPCA, 879 McLean Rd, Cortland, NY 13045 or online <https://cortlandspca.org/donate>

Arrangements by B.L. Bush & Sons Funeral Home, Camillus.

Please sign her guestbook at www.BLBUSH.com

Tribute Wall

WS

“ *Sharing one memory of the many I have with Paula would be impossible. We were sisters first, but we were friends as well. Just a few memories: Darien Lake with Becky and Samantha the day of the Black Out and leaving the park to find a gas station that open; the scenic train ride with bank robbers and of course my Maid of Honor at our wedding.*

Who am I going to call now to get interpretations of medical tests and blood work? You always took all the medical terms and put them in words I could understand. Your passion for nursing was so admirable.

I miss you so much. Life was very unfair to you, especially the last 7 years. You put up a heroic fight. I am glad all your pains are over. Give Mom, Dad, Tim and all our loved ones hugs. And, of course enjoy all the dogs that you loved and cared for throughout the years. Until we meet again . .

*Love Always,
Wilma*

Wilma McAlister, Sister - June 02, 2025 at 09:58 PM

MW

“ To say I was shocked, and saddened to see Paula's obituary today, is an understatement. I had the distinct honor to meet her at Community General, in 2007. My husband spent 9 days in the ICU, most of those days, Paula was his day Nurse. Her kindness to me, and the gentle way she handled my husband, will never be forgotten by me, she gave her all, to her work. I have spoke of Paula many time through the years since, with great admiration, as people like her don't come into your life by accident, I believe God had her there, not just as a caregiver but, a comfort for me, she helped me through the decision I had to make for my love to be extubated. Paula was my personal angel, at that time. I am truly sorry for your loss, of one so special. Sincerest condolences
Marla Winkworth,
Marcellus, Ny

Marla Winkworth - June 01, 2025 at 11:48 PM

GC

“ It is with great saddness to hear of your beloved Paula. My prayers are with you. Please accept my heart felt condolences. Most sincerely,
Gregory Curtin
Apulia, NY

Gregory Curtin - June 01, 2025 at 08:49 PM

RM

“ Condolences to the Duarte family! I was a fellow classmate in high school. Was a pleasure to reconnect via Facebook posts and share thoughts and fun there. We will miss you Paula and sending comfort to your family!

Ron Monson - June 01, 2025 at 04:33 PM

AP

“ I worked under Paula when she was the Head Nurse on 5 South. She was a great mentor!! She was loving, compassionate and patient with her colleagues and patients. She had a beautiful smile and soft voice. RIP sweet Lady. 🙏

Anna Pisano - May 30, 2025 at 04:17 PM

SD

“ It's hard to sum up someone's legacy in just a few paragraphs. My mother was a fierce, courageous person. She was selfless, kind and did her best at anything she tried. Remembrance of her acts of courage throughout the hardest times, in her life and many other's lives, will live on forever.

Samantha Duarte - May 30, 2025 at 09:32 AM

MW

I am so sorry for the loss of your mom...It's been 18 Years, since she cared for my husband at CGH, I will never forget her, compassion

Marla Winkworth - June 01, 2025 at 11:54 PM

CG

“ The Central New York Syracuse Nurses Honor Guard Coalition wishes to acknowledge the nursing career of Nurse Paula Duarte. We honor Paula for the difference that she made in the lives of so many patients and colleagues. Our sincere condolences to you, her family. May the love of family and friends give you comfort. May the love of God give you peace.

Sincerely, CNY SYR Nurses Honor Guard
No Nurse is Forgotten

Central NY Syracuse Nurses Honor Guard - May 30, 2025 at 06:38 AM

CS

“ Paula gave me my first job at Cortland in 1997 as I worked as a CNA also being hired by Mary Wright DON. Paula was an absolute excellent nurse manager. It 1999 my son was Colicky and Paula had let me bring him in. He was just a baby and the residents loved it. She always cared about her staff and her residents. RIP Paula. You are no longer in pain.

Carrie Sabin - May 29, 2025 at 07:31 PM

CB

“ I had the Honor of working with Paula, 1st as staff Rn's on 5s crouse then Paula as our nurse manager. Paula always had a Smile and was willing to help whenever needed. I remember her husband business cards when it won't start call Duarte. Rest in Peace Paula, no more suffering my friend.



Cindy Bane - May 29, 2025 at 06:34 PM

MK

“ Paula you and I did not spend much time together but your love and my love for animals, dogs especially, brought us together. Not only will your human family and friends miss you I know at least one pup who sure will. But Sophie will keep an eye on Kevin for you. As you, I and Sophie are aware, someone has to manage Kevin. God rest your body and soul dear woman. they broke the mold when you came around. Margaret kreimer

Margret Kreiner - May 29, 2025 at 04:47 PM

KC

“ Paula helped train me in ICU at Community. She was energetic, funny, and kind and taught me how to provide end of life care with empathy. I called her Mama Paula, she called me a few other things that aren't guestbook-ready. I wish we could reverse time, and be back in 2009 for a little while, working with Paula. She was a good friend and coworker, but I'm glad she's out of that broken body of hers. I know it drove her crazy, not being able to do the things she'd always done with ease.

karen creme - May 29, 2025 at 01:24 PM

KM

I worked with Paula at Community General Hospitals ICU. She was so smart and caring. She taught me so much. She rarely needed help but was always there to help others. She was the best.

Kelly McCrohan - May 29, 2025 at 01:45 PM

HJ

I was fortunate to have had Paula as a student in sixth grade in my homeroom as well as for math, reading, and, I think, science. Even today as I write this remember the sweet, kind, quiet, and very bright person. I loved making her laugh and smile as she does in this accompanying picture. She would blush at the attention but I knew she enjoyed it. She was so intent when I read Animal Farm each Friday in reading class. She loved it and I knew she really understood it. As an educator, you strive to reach each kid and to remember them all. But there are those you always remember and Paula was one of those. Thank you, Paula Smith. You gave me so much and I hope I returned it in kind.

Mr. J

Homer Jackson - May 29, 2025 at 03:04 PM

AS

I worked with Paula at Community General Hospital in the ED .. always enjoyed her smile and caring attitude towards co workers and our patients. I believe heaven has gained a true angel.. condolences to her family and pets 🙏😊

Annette Sutherland - May 29, 2025 at 04:43 PM



I worked with Paula in the ER at cgh,sweet,quiet and smart,Condolences to her family

Vicki Franz - May 29, 2025 at 07:16 PM