



## Paula Jean Rutter Hicks

October 12, 1961 - August 9, 2016

Paula Jean Rutter Hicks, 54, of Altavista died on Tuesday, August 9, 2016 at her home. She fought a long, painful battle with cancer but always maintained hope and good spirits with those who cared for her.

She is survived by her husband of twenty-six years, Keith Hicks; mother, Janet Rutter; two sisters, Pam and Angela Rutter; one brother, Mike Rutter and his wife, Jacquelyn; and four nieces, Katy Barker, Amber Howard and her husband Darrell, Ashley Rutter, and Jaida Thompson.

Paula was born to Paul and Janet Rigel Rutter on October 12, 1961 in Ann Arbor, MI. As a youngster, she participated in 4H and particularly enjoyed showing animals at the county fair. Paula graduated from Britton-Macon Area High School in 1980. In addition to involvement in other high school activities, she was dually enrolled in college classes. She earned her Nursing Degree from Virginia Western Community College in 1995. Paula worked for both the Roanoke and Lynchburg Camelot Nursing Homes as well as for Centra Health as Hospice Nurse Manager.

Paula was not only an exceptionally competent nurse but always displayed a very noticeable loving and caring manner with her patients. This was evidenced by the fact that she was recognized as "Employee of the Year" at both the Roanoke and Lynchburg Camelot Nursing Home locations. In 2005,

she was also given the Craddock-Terry "Excellence in Nursing Practice" award from the Home Health Division of Virginia Baptist Hospital.

Paula loved and devoted her life to what mattered most to her; her family, her friends, her patients, her work, and animals in need. Over the years, there were a host of grateful rescue dogs to whom she gave a loving home. Paula was full of energy, fun-loving and the best cookie-maker in the universe. And, she shared her cookie-making gift with everyone - not just during the holidays. Paula will be dearly missed by all who crossed her path in this short, uncertain life.

A funeral service will be conducted at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, August 13, 2016 at Lane Memorial United Methodist Church by the Rev. Ben Horrocks with interment to follow in Green Hill Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 3:00 until 8:30 p.m., Friday at Finch and Finch Funeral and Cremation Service, Altavista and other times at the residence.

The family would like to extend a special thanks to Paula's hospice care team, especially Stephanie Ford and Della Hancock.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that those wishing to make memorials consider Centra Hospice, 2097 Langhorne Rd., Lynchburg, VA 24501, Campbell County Humane Society, PO Box 659, Rustburg, VA 24588, or Michigan Ovarian Cancer Asso., 5181 Pinnacle Ct., Ann Arbor, MI 48108 (MIOCA.org).

# Cemetery Details

## Green Hill Cemetery

300 Westwood Drive  
Altavista, VA 24517

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 12. 3:00 PM - 8:30 PM (ET)

Finch and Finch, Altavista  
809 Main St.  
Altavista, VA 24517

## Funeral Service

AUG 13. 11:00 AM (ET)

Lane Memorial United Methodist Church  
1201 Bedford Avenue  
Altavista, VA 24517

# Tribute Wall

 Jenna  
Leigh

“ Sweet Paula,  
*I just found out that you left this life last night. At first, I couldn't believe it because you looked so great and were so full of life when I last saw you. Then, I felt so sad because I never got to know you as well as I wish I would have. I only had the pleasure of meeting you twice in person and talking some over the phone but I know that you're a beautiful soul for taking such wonderful care of our Toby boy and many others the way that you did and I love you and thank you so much for that. I know that Toby loves you and your husband very much. I sat up for a while last night after I read so much about how wonderful you are, and as Toby laid there beside me, I said to him, "I know you love her Tobe, and I know that she loves you and has already been here to see you." ❤️💛 I know without a doubt that Toby had a great life with y'all and he now has some new friends here that love him very much, as well. ❤️*



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**Jenna Leigh** - February 15, 2017 at 01:40 PM

JF

“ I'm so very sorry for your loss. Paula and I were roommates when she moved to Houston back in 1982 from Dundee. We met at Gallagher's where we both worked, and everyone was like a big family there. I have such fun memories of that time.

I have been looking for Paula on Facebook off and on for several years. I woke up at 4:30am this morning and the thought to Google her came to me.

I can't tell you how sad I am to find her sweet face only to know I missed a chance to reconnect by such a short amount of time.

Paula was such a sweet and fun girl. Even way back then (we were 21? 22?) she was a cookie baking fool! Always had our apartment smelling wonderful. We didn't do a lot of cooking, but she would always get around to baking up a batch of yum.

I have my old photo album with lots of pics and she looks the same. I know she will be missed. I still miss her all these years later.

Bless you and your family.

Jill Ferry-Williams



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Jill Ferry-Williams - September 08, 2016 at 07:46 AM

TK

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I am just finding out today, that Paula has passed away. I have memories of Paula being my neighbor on the corner of Oak Street in Dundee. I have a lots of wonderful memories growing up and playing and having so much fun kids. My sister and I have often talked about growing up as kids and having such good neighbors and so much fun. Prayers for comfort for your whole family. Love, Tammy Kruse 🙏💜

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Tamra Kruse - September 06, 2016 at 06:06 PM

KA

“ Again, so sorry about Paula's passing. For the family's reference, my mother was Nona Tucker. My tribute below failed to mention that. Paula was very special.

*Kay Tucker Addis  
Charleston, S.C.*



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**Kay Tucker Addis** - August 19, 2016 at 08:17 AM

KA

“ I was very saddened and shocked to see an obituary for Paula. She was my mother's hospice nurse in 2004 and early 2005. She made my mom feel special, and Paula was at the house so much that she became part of our family. I was touched when she attended my mom's funeral, and we mentioned her in my mom's obit. It takes a special person to enjoy being a hospice nurse, and Paula had a rare combination of exceptional nursing skills and outstanding bedside manner. I've never before or since seen a nurse we all wanted to be around. Had I lived in Atavist as an adult, I would love to have been her friend.

*My condolence to Paula's family. Please know there are families all over the country who navigated the process of losing loved ones with Paula's special touch. She paved the way for the patient and his or her family with humor, grace and compassion.*

*She was very special indeed.*



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**Kay Tucker Addis** - August 19, 2016 at 08:10 AM

TG

“ Toni Grosso lit a candle in memory of Paula  
Jean Rutter Hicks



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**Toni Grosso** - August 18, 2016 at 05:28 AM

MC

“ Paula was my husband's hospice nurse in 2004. She was so kind and loving and made him feel special from the very 1st day. She was also there for me and came whenever I called. Funny thing is that she also was my now husband's wife nurse too. He said she was the best nurse ever. He had the priviledge of knowing her longer than I did. I know she was an angel to many and will be greatly missed. So sad that she had the disease that she had helped so many people with. She will be forever remembered by the ones she helped and will see many of the ones that passed on in heaven.

*Junior and Marilyn Cook*

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**Marilyn Cook** - August 16, 2016 at 09:49 AM

MC

“ Marilyn Cook lit a candle in memory of Paula  
Jean Rutter Hicks



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**Marilyn Cook** - August 16, 2016 at 09:43 AM



“ I am so grateful for the care and love she brought to my mom during her final battle with cancer. We all loved her and she made mom's last days a little more special. May her memories be lasting ones to comfort all of you. With love and sympathy,  
Tim Thomas



Timothy Thomas - August 14, 2016 at 09:23 AM



“ I am so grateful for the care and love she brought to my mom during her final battle with cancer. We all loved her and she made mom's last days a little more special. May her memories be lasting ones to comfort all of you. With love and sympathy,  
Tim Thomas

Timothy Thomas - August 14, 2016 at 09:19 AM

SB

“ Scott & Mona Bennett lit a candle in memory of Paula Jean Rutter Hicks



Scott & Mona Bennett - August 13, 2016 at 07:13 PM

DS

“ I remember how bubbly and enthusiastic Paula was about life! I am so sorry and thoughts and prayers to your family. Sincerely, Debbie Shelton (Teresa Stallard's sister)

Deborah Shelton - August 13, 2016 at 10:15 AM

KK

“ Keith, Janet & all in the Rutter family. I am so sorry for your loss. We all come to this world,, as a tourist, to enjoy life, sightsee & do good deeds. Paula left earlier than others. She was dearly loved by family, friends, patients & animals. I know she is in heaven, helping someone who needs a little extra attention. I will always treasure the special times we shared. Paula, I love you. Aunt Karen

Karen Kapp - August 12, 2016 at 04:27 PM

PD

“ Janet, Pam, Mike, Angie and the Hick family. I am terribly sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you all at this time.

Pat Dempsey - August 12, 2016 at 01:55 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Paula Jean Rutter Hicks .



August 12, 2016 at 11:42 AM



“ Heartfelt sympathy to Paula's family during this very difficult time. As colleagues, we will miss her amazing energy and fun loving spirit!  
Sincerely,  
Diane Pew

Diane Pew - August 12, 2016 at 09:35 AM

TB

“ Dear Keith, Pam, Janet, Angie, Mike & all your families

*Thinking of you all at this sad time.*

*My memories of Paula's sense of fun, kindness and her lovely smile are with me every day.*

*You are all in my thoughts and prayers.*

*Lots of love, Trevor Beeston*

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**Trevor Beeston** - August 12, 2016 at 04:36 AM

DI

“ Dianne Irby lit a candle in memory of Paula Jean Rutter Hicks



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**Dianne Irby** - August 11, 2016 at 09:41 PM



“ A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of Paula Jean Rutter Hicks .



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August 11, 2016 at 05:03 PM

GD

“ Georgiana DeClercq lit a candle in memory of Paula Jean Rutter Hicks



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Georgiana DeClercq - August 11, 2016 at 03:53 PM

TD

“ Dear Keith, Janet, Pam, Mike, Angie and extended Hicks and Rutter families-

WOW- this is so hard! Our hearts are truly broken at the Dellinger household!!! Paula was truly an amazing person with an angelic personality. She was one of the kindest, most thoughtful people we have ever been blessed to know. And she was funny! She was always known as Aunt Paula to our children Blythe, now 16 and Jake, now 14. She never missed a birthday or any of their religious sacraments. We were so blessed that she so loyal during their upbringing. She taught Blythe how to walk and referred to Jake as her “Rock Star”. On road trips-at the sight of any yard or estate sale, we all smile and one of the kids still says- “Aunt Paula”. We started a Holiday Bake off in 2009, and it continued until 2015. She spent many hours teaching Blythe and Jake how to decorate her phenomenal sugar cookies. We ALL cherish those memories! She will also be missed by our 10 year old Beagle, Buckeye. He loved and adored her. Dog Bubble, “Aunt Paula = Treats!” Last but not least, she was Lisa’s favorite U of M fan, which is tough to admit hence our Dog’s name. It will be the first OSU - U of M game in many, many years that the phone won’t be ringing with Paula on the other end reminding us at kick off that the “Buckeyes Suck!” We raise a pink wine in your honor our dear friend, we will LOVE and MISS you everyday!!!

James, Lisa, Blythe, Jake and Buckeye Dellinger

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The Dellingers - August 11, 2016 at 12:19 PM



“ I am so sad to hear about this! I didn't even realize she had been sick. Paula will always have a special place in my heart. She took care of my husband as he was leaving this world from cancer. Paula was so good to him along with Tori and me. I am so sorry for her family!!!!!!!!!!

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**Cindy Roach** - August 11, 2016 at 10:55 AM

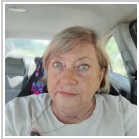


“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Paula Jean Rutter Hicks .



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August 11, 2016 at 09:36 AM



“ I remember Paula back early on in Hospice. We were hired at the same time. I was for on -call and she worked during the week days. I loved her the first time I met her, her dry sense of humor would always make me laugh. During those days when she had to do on -call back up I was always so glad 'cause she always had my back. I loved her, I admired her wit and her love of life. I am so sorry that cancer took her away. I wish comfort and peace for the family and many good loving memories of Paula. Fly high old friend.

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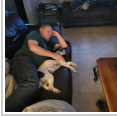
**Constance Bailey** - August 11, 2016 at 08:13 AM



“ Keith so sorry for your loss. Our prayers and thoughts are with you and your family during this difficult time . Paula was a wonderful person we will all miss her greatly.

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**Jan Bryant** - August 11, 2016 at 05:58 AM



*Paula you were always such a vibrant beautiful person. Keith my prayers and thoughts are with you and your family*

**Debbie Everard** - August 11, 2016 at 10:16 AM

JD

*“ James, Lisa, Blythe, Jake and Buckeye Dellinger purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Paula Jean Rutter Hicks .*



**James, Lisa, Blythe, Jake and Buckeye Dellinger** - August 10, 2016 at 10:18 PM

LR

*“ Janet, I am so sorry to hear about Paula. I remember babysitting for the kids -- it was a long time ago, but there are good memories. I pray Paula's husband, you and all your family will be blessed in a special way with God's comfort and strength. Linda Croitori Rehklau*

**Linda Rehklau** - August 10, 2016 at 08:12 PM

SH

*“ A beautiful friend and excellent nurse....I am so blessed to have known you. I was privileged to work along side u in the MICU....and was the recipient of ur baking skills....a true angel....love u Paula*



**Sherri Trent Hailey** - August 10, 2016 at 07:15 PM

VB

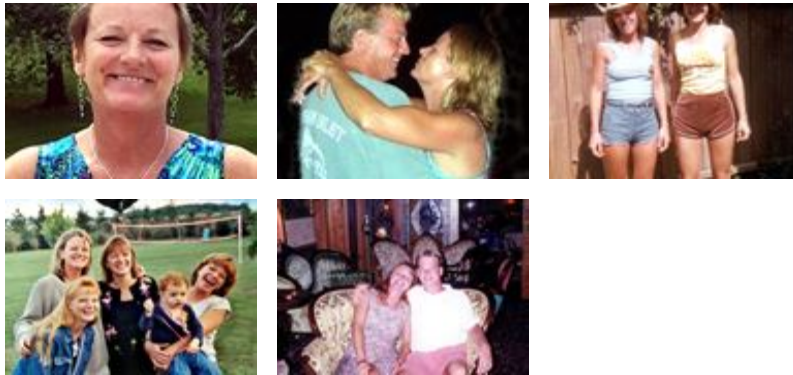
“ Paula has always been one of those people that others look up to, gravitate to, and strive to be like her - a beautiful and caring soul. Always a smile and kind word ready, and always made you laugh, even if you didn't really want to! The saying is overused and seems watered down, but Paula was truly "One of a Kind"! An inspiration and friend to all! Although our adult lives separated us by many miles, I will always hold close every memory I have of her, because she can still make me smile! Love you all, and see you soon.



Vivian Rigel Bartko - August 10, 2016 at 03:06 PM



“ 37 files added to the album Life Tributes



Finch & Finch, Inc. Funeral & Cremation Service - August 10, 2016 at 02:47 PM

SS

“ Sandra Sample lit a candle in memory of Paula Jean Rutter Hicks



Sandra Sample - August 10, 2016 at 02:39 PM



“ I'm so very sorry to learn of sweet Paulas passing. She was one of the most beautiful people on the planet. She was my mother's hospice nurse in 2004. She used her wonderful cookie baking skills at least twice a week for my sweet Mama. I know she touched so many lives as a wonderful nurse and humanitarian. GOD bless her family and all those that knew and loved this lovely woman.

Tina Dalton - August 10, 2016 at 02:16 PM

TF

“ The Dellinger Family lit a candle in memory of Paula Jean Rutter Hicks



The Dellinger Family - August 10, 2016 at 02:09 PM

SF

“ Prayers are with you -- Stan and Sandra Finch



Sandra Finch - August 10, 2016 at 01:55 PM

KR

“ Great memories of a very special lady! She was a nurse that took others under her wing and showed us newbies the ropes. Floods of laughter when I think of her.

Kimberly Raleigh - August 10, 2016 at 01:39 PM

JP

“ Jenny Pipis lit a candle in memory of Paula Jean Rutter Hicks



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**Jenny Pipis** - August 10, 2016 at 01:03 PM

DR

“ It sure is tough losing such a great cousin to this disease. As everybody has experienced, Paula has been an inspiration and great friend to everybody who were fortunate enough to cross her path. Sorry we can't be at the service, but you all remain in our thoughts.



*Dave & Linda Rigel*

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**Dave & Linda Rigel** - August 10, 2016 at 01:03 PM

DR

“ Dave & Linda Rigel lit a candle in memory of Paula Jean Rutter Hicks



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**Dave & Linda Rigel** - August 10, 2016 at 12:58 PM

EC

“ Paula's positive and fun-loving nature will certainly be missed ! Jim and I especially enjoyed our times spent with Paula at many of the Rutter family get-togethers over the years. Special thoughts and prayers to you, Keith and to the entire Rutter family.



*Emily Carros*

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**Emily Carros** - August 10, 2016 at 12:12 PM



“ Fruits and Blooms Basket was purchased for the family of Paula Jean Rutter Hicks .



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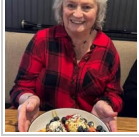
August 10, 2016 at 12:12 PM

CH

“ I see Paula on the beach, early in the morning, a smile on her face, looking for sea glass. She loved life and people. The world is a much better place for having had her in it. Anyone that that met her, is truly blessed and their life is so much the richer for having shared a little time with her. May God grant peace and comfort to Keith and her family. We love you! "O.B" & Connie Hill

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**Connie Hill** - August 10, 2016 at 11:28 AM



“ *A beautiful person inside and out. She was a life saver when my mother was in Hospice Care. She made my whole family feel so much better. She certainly had a way about her that I will never forget. I am sure Paula will be so happy to see all the people she has been so kind to over her years of nursing. Rest in Peace Paula. It was an honor to have known you!!*



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**Jane Chapman** - August 10, 2016 at 11:14 AM



“ *My prayers to the family, I only met Paula a handful of times always a fun, loving person. She will truly be missed by all.*



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**Jana Allen-Hawkins** - August 10, 2016 at 09:52 AM

HS

“ Paula was the epitome of what defines a friend. She was so loving, kind, and gracious to all who entered her home and her life. She knew how to spread happiness during tough times just by showing that beautiful smile. She was an incredible friend to Mark and me and a wonderful godmother to our daughter, Kellin. We absolutely loved just being around her. She was an incredible cook who could put chicken on the grill, leave it for what seemed like hours, and have it turn out better than at a five star restaurant. We will miss the food coloring stains on our fingers from the hundreds of decorated cookies she would send home with us. I will miss the many yard sale trips and driving her Garmin crazy when we took wrong turns. There are so many wonderful memories we have of Paula that we could probably write a novel. We thank you Paula for being a friend's friend and for being so caring, vibrant, and a light in our lives. We will miss you dearly until we all meet again. Love you Paula.

*Love always, Mark, Heather, and Kellin Simpson*

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**Heather Simpson** - August 10, 2016 at 09:04 AM

BJ

“ I am so sorry to hear of Paula's passing. I remember many good times we had camping and at different events. Paula was a hoot and always kept us laughing. Keith, you and Paula's family will be in my prayers. Love,  
*Betty Jenkins*



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**Betty Jenkins** - August 10, 2016 at 08:46 AM

BG

“ Bruce & Angie Gledhill lit a candle in memory of Paula Jean Rutter Hicks



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**Bruce & Angie Gledhill** - August 10, 2016 at 08:12 AM

PL

“ Paula was my Dad's Hospice nurse. She was awesome and we considered her part of our family. She was the best nurse ever. She will be missed. Prayers to her family. She was the BEST.

*Elizabeth Blankenship  
Jack and Peggy Lancaster*

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**Peggy Lancaster** - August 10, 2016 at 08:09 AM

RO

“ Robbin lit a candle in memory of Paula Jean Rutter Hicks



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**Robbin** - August 10, 2016 at 08:04 AM

RO

*Paula was the most AWESOME person I ever met, she will forever be missed. Keith my heart goes out to you and your family.*

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**Robbin** - August 10, 2016 at 08:06 AM

DH

“ *Debby Hinkleman lit a candle in memory of Paula Jean Rutter Hicks*



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**debby hinkleman** - August 10, 2016 at 07:53 AM



“ *Keith, I was sorry to hear about the passing of Paula. You and your family will be in our thoughts and prayers.*  
*Dennis DeLappe*

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**Dennis DeLappe** - August 10, 2016 at 07:34 AM

RW

“ *Ralph Woods lit a candle in memory of Paula Jean Rutter Hicks*



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**Ralph Woods** - August 10, 2016 at 07:24 AM

DE

“ *So sorry to hear about your sister Mike! Sending a prayer your way.*

*Dawn (Cook) Edwards*

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**Dawn Edwards** - August 10, 2016 at 06:46 AM

JS

“ *Joyce Scott lit a candle in memory of Paula Jean Rutter Hicks*



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**Joyce Scott** - August 10, 2016 at 06:36 AM

JC

“ *Jean & Mike Clay lit a candle in memory of Paula Jean Rutter Hicks*



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**Jean & Mike Clay** - August 10, 2016 at 06:25 AM

PV

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you and we will always keep her in our hearts. Love Paul Jean and van VanKerckhove*



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**Paul VanKerckhove** - August 10, 2016 at 06:22 AM

JP

“ *Jeff & Cathy Pilbeam lit a candle in memory of Paula Jean Rutter Hicks*



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**Jeff & Cathy Pilbeam** - August 10, 2016 at 04:27 AM


JH

“ *Judith And Todd Hedgpeth lit a candle in memory of Paula Jean Rutter Hicks*



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**Judith and Todd Hedgpeth** - August 09, 2016 at 10:03 PM

 Gloria Lozano

“ *Gloria Lozano lit a candle in memory of Paula Jean Rutter Hicks*



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**Gloria Lozano** - August 09, 2016 at 09:02 PM

 Gloria Lozano

“ *Gloria Lozano lit a candle in memory of Paula Jean Rutter Hicks*



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**Gloria Lozano** - August 09, 2016 at 09:01 PM

EP

“ *To Keith and family. May the Lord be with you all during this difficult time. Even though its hard to lose such a wonderful person as Paula was we know she has no more pain and suffering. "RIP". Love Gayle & Eddie Puckette*

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**Eddie Puckette** - August 09, 2016 at 08:43 PM

HT

“ Heidi Tucker lit a candle in memory of Paula Jean Rutter Hicks



Heidi Tucker - August 09, 2016 at 08:42 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Paula Jean Rutter Hicks .



August 09, 2016 at 08:34 PM



“ Paula was truly an angel on earth. She made a positive difference in the lives of everyone she touched. She once shared that her passion in life was Hospice nursing and I refer to Paula often when speaking to nursing students regarding the qualities a Hospice nurse must possess. She had them all, she was caring, compassionate, smart and as we all know, was able to add humor to any event. The void we feel cannot be filled but our memories will help us to never forget what an inspiration she was to all of us.



Terry Karet - August 09, 2016 at 08:26 PM

EP

“ *Eddie & Gayle Puckette lit a candle in memory of Paula Jean Rutter Hicks*



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**Eddie & Gayle Puckette** - August 09, 2016 at 08:21 PM

EP

*You will a great addition to God's angels. Paula was an angel here on earth. She was loved by many and will be greatly missed.*

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**Eddie & Gayle Puckette** - August 09, 2016 at 08:23 PM

HC

*Remembering her fondly! PBX staff at VBH and LGH*

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**Helen Covington** - August 14, 2016 at 08:36 PM

LP

“ *Linda Pierce lit a candle in memory of Paula Jean Rutter Hicks*



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**Linda Pierce** - August 09, 2016 at 08:14 PM

HP

“ Words can not describe how I feel about Paula's passing away, I remember her when I worked with her and Keith, she was one funny lady, always the life of any party!! Heaven gained a awesome angel!! Gone way to soon!! Will always be remembered, never forgotten, my thoughts and prayers go out to her husband Keith, and all family members , from Hume Powers



hume powers - August 09, 2016 at 08:13 PM

KW

“ Kathy & Ray Walker lit a candle in memory of Paula Jean Rutter Hicks



Kathy & Ray Walker - August 09, 2016 at 07:58 PM



“ Jana Allen-Hawkins lit a candle in memory of Paula Jean Rutter Hicks



Jana Allen-Hawkins - August 09, 2016 at 07:42 PM

TT

“ *Teresa Turner lit a candle in memory of Paula Jean Rutter Hicks*



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**Teresa Turner** - August 09, 2016 at 07:04 PM

TH

“ *Tommy&Shirley Hutcherson lit a candle in memory of Paula Jean Rutter Hicks*



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**Tommy&Shirley Hutcherson** - August 09, 2016 at 06:51 PM

JK

“ *Janice Kelley sent a virtual gift in memory of Paula Jean Rutter Hicks*



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**Janice Kelley** - August 09, 2016 at 06:44 PM

SB

“ *You are in our thoughts and prayers.*

*Edwin & Sue Blackstock*



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**Sue Blackstock** - August 09, 2016 at 04:55 PM

JF

“ Paula was one of a kind, such a joy to be around. I absolutely loved the way she always told it like it was, one of my favorite qualities in a person. Her joyful spirit and warm hearted nature will be missed by all who knew her. Hugs to you, Keith and to Paula's mom and sisters who I had the pleasure of meeting. All of her family and friends are in my prayers. <3



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**Judy Finch** - August 09, 2016 at 04:06 PM