



# Paula Theresa Smith Fortner

October 16, 1958 - July 9, 2025

Paula Theresa Smith Fortner, born on October 16, 1958, passed away peacefully on July 9, 2025, at the age of 66. She dedicated her life to caring for others as a compassionate hospice nurse, as well as volunteering for 40 years at Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous, providing comfort and support to countless families during their times of need.

From a young age, Paula showed a deep sense of empathy and a calling to care for others.

For many years Paula volunteered as a Girl Scout Leader. She truly enjoyed this role. She was committed to fostering leadership, commitment and a love for the outdoors. She was a mentor, friend and a positive role model.

Paula's career started out in the business world but her desire and determination to be a nurse led her to change careers. Paula was able to go to nursing school while working in an office. She graduated from Brenau University in 2008 and started her new career as a Hospice Nurse. She embraced this new path with passion and unwavering commitment.

Paula understood the unique challenges of end-of-life care and worked tirelessly to ensure that patients and families felt secure, respected, and supported. Many lives were positively affected because of her caring and compassionate spirit.

Paula was preceded in death by her beloved parents, Robert and Marion Smith; her brother, Thomas Smith; and her nephew, Robert Smith. She leaves behind a loving family who will cherish her memory: her brother, John Smith, and his wife Nancy; her sister-in-law, Sally Smith; her nieces and nephews, Jessica McGahee and her husband Tom, Jonathan Smith and his wife Tara, Alan Smith, Todd Smith and his wife Natalie, and Andy Smith and his wife Janee. Paula was also a cherished great-aunt to Adrian, Claire, Will, Charlotte, Thomas, Isaiah, Brandon, and Kimberly.

A celebration of Paula's life will be held on Friday, July 18, 2025, at 3:00 PM at the Chapel of Parrott Funeral Home. Family and friends are invited to gather for visitation one hour prior to the service to honor and remember a woman whose kindness and dedication

touched the lives of many.

Paula will be deeply missed by all who knew her, but her legacy of care and compassion will live on in the hearts of those she served and loved.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 18. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Parrott Funeral Home & Crematory  
8355 Senoia Road  
Fairburn, GA 30213  
(770) 964-4800  
info@parrottfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.parrottfuneralhome.com/>

## Memorial Service

JUL 18. 3:00 PM.

Parrott Funeral Home Chapel

# Tribute Wall



“ Parrott Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Paula Theresa Smith Fortner



Parrott Funeral Home - July 18, 2025 at 11:16 AM



“ Parrott Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Paula Theresa Smith Fortner



Parrott Funeral Home - July 18, 2025 at 09:00 AM

SP

Just found out on January 13, 2026 that my old highschool friend Paula Smith Fortner passed away July of 2025. Thank you for putting this online. I was blessed by it. Thinking of Paula. 🌹💕🕊️ So sorry she and I lost touch. Very heartfelt condolences to each and every one of her family and friends. Respectfully, Susie Guy Piper.

Susie Piper - January 13 at 04:05 PM



“ 59 files added to the album LifeTributes



Parrott Funeral Home - July 18, 2025 at 10:32 AM

PT

“ Pam Davidson and Pat Tatum purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Paula Theresa Smith Fortner.



Pam Davidson and Pat Tatum - July 16, 2025 at 06:43 AM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Paula Theresa Smith Fortner.



July 13, 2025 at 11:45 AM

SS

“ I met Paula when I was 15, and she was almost 12, when I began dating her brother Tommy. She became another little sister. I married Tommy when I was 18, and she became my sister in law. At times, Paula lived with us, and our sons, Todd and Robert. They adored their aunt and she did them. She was a patient aunt who always saw the funny side of things. She moved out, got married, and Tom and I had another son, Andy. We didn't see each other as often- birthdays, and holidays became the norm. We got older- Tom died, then Craig died right after he and Paula divorced, and Paula and I started getting together to shop or just to go to dinner. Her mom's health went downhill, so she moved in with her, next to my parents so we saw even more of each other. All the parents passed, and Andy and Janee moved in next door in Mom and Dad's house. My grandchildren got to see their great aunt often. Paula and Kimberly became fast buddies with their love of dogs. She genuinely cared about them. And when she loved, she loved 100 percent. Paula touched so many lives- in scouting, in NA and AA, and through her job as a hospice nurse. She made friends and kept them. Once she retired she started subbing as a school nurse when her health allowed. This last illness was more than her heart could bear, so God saw how tired she was, and how weak she had become, and he took her home. I will greatly miss her, but I know she is with everyone that went before her. Safe in the arms of Jesus, with no more pain.

Sally Smith - July 12, 2025 at 07:13 PM