



Denise C. Nichols

July 6, 1958 - November 25, 2015

Denise Catherine Nichols, 57, of Hamden, CT passed away on November 25th at Hospice in Branford, CT after a 6 ½ year battle with ovarian cancer. Born in New Haven, CT, Denise was raised in Hamden, CT. She is survived by her sisters, Barbara Nichols of Hamden, CT, Rosemary Nichols of Branford, CT, her brother, Mark Nichols of New Haven, CT, her nieces Carmella Nichols and Katherine Nichols of New Haven, CT, her sister-in-law Denise Botto of New Haven, CT and her aunt Ann Canning of New Haven, CT. Denise is also survived by her many cousins and her “adopted” sisters/friends Anne Marie Menta of Hamden, CT and Elyse Greenberg of Bridgeport, CT.

Denise’s life was devoted to serving others and her love of nursing led her to become a LPN at 19 and later a RN. She served as a critical care nurse at the Hospital of St. Raphael’s for over 30 years. Denise then continued her career as a nurse and educator for patients receiving either hemodialysis or home peritoneal dialysis, most recently at Avantis in New Haven, CT.

Denise was beloved by countless friends and fellow medical professionals. During her nursing career she received the Nightingale Award from the Hospital of St. Raphael’s as well as other awards that highlighted her humanitarian skills working with patients, their families, doctors and nurses. Early in her career, Denise honed her skills by volunteering with special needs students, providing a positive image of nursing and the medical profession to urban students.

Denise's other great passion in life was her love of animals. She rescued many dogs and cats from shelters and was enchanted by every animal that crossed her path. Denise also loved being active and over the years participated in skiing, ice skating, tennis, racquetball, cycling, hiking, running, traveling, camping and in 2013 fulfilled her dream of skydiving out of an airplane.

Denise's parents instilled in her a love of music and dancing that she continued her entire life. With her sister Rosemary, Denise spent many happy hours on the dance floor. The music she held most precious was that of her friend Anne Marie Menta. It brought joy and comfort to Denise even up to her final days at Hospice.

Denise participated in numerous volunteer organizations and activities, among them Relay for Life (Hamden), the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition (NOCC) Annual Walk/Run to Break the Silence, and served on the Community Emergency Response Team for the town of Hamden.

Anyone who knew Denise knew that her sense of humor was always evident. Even during her time at Hospice her humorous quips to visitors and staff were ever present. Denise's courage during her battle with Stage IV ovarian cancer was an amazement to everyone who met her. Over these past 6 ½ years, she participated in traditional treatment in Connecticut, integrative treatment at the Cancer Treatment Centers of America (CTCA) in Pennsylvania and was a clinical trial subject for 18 months at Mass General in Massachusetts. The result of Denise and other women's participation in this study led to a newly FDA approved drug that has the potential of saving the lives of other women diagnosed with ovarian cancer.

During her final weeks at Hospice, Denise discussed the need for increased public awareness and funding for ovarian cancer research. Denise encouraged women who were suffering from symptoms such as abdominal pressure, difficulty eating, swollen abdomen, and/or urinary concerns, to discuss them with their doctor.

Denise will be missed by many, but her spirit and commitment to caring for

others will live on with her memory. In lieu of flowers, Denise's family is asking that donations be made to the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition (NOCC).

You can go to <http://ovarian.org/donate.php>.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be Celebrated for Denise Saturday at 10 a.m. in Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church. Burial will follow in All Saints Cemetery. The family will receive friends Friday from 4 - 8 p.m. in Sisk Brothers Funeral Home 3105 Whitney Ave. Hamden. To leave an online condolence please visit www.siskbrothers.com

Cemetery Details

All Saints Cemetery

700 Middletown Ave.
North Haven, CT

Previous Events

Calling hours

DEC 4. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Sisk Brothers Funeral Home
3105 Whitney Ave.
Hamden, CT 06518
(203) 288-7114
siskfuneral@sbcglobal.net

Funeral service

DEC 5. 10:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church
2819 Whitney Ave.
Hamden, CT

Tribute Wall



“ *Kathleen Pliszka lit a candle in memory of Denise C. Nichols*



Kathleen Pliszka - December 05, 2015 at 05:44 PM

KP

“ *Denise was more than just my nurse...she was my friend. No matter what was going on in her life she always put other people ahead of herself. the last thing she said to me was to "make sure i kissed the babies for her" (my four dogs) We shared the same sense of humor and shared many laughs together Though after a couple of my jokes she wanted to smack me for doing that to her. I will miss her dearly and i will always smile when i think of her Rest in Peace Denise I Love You*

Kathleen Pliszka - December 04, 2015 at 06:05 PM

HS

“ *Dear Rosemary,*

We at Mary Wade were so saddened to hear of your sister's passing. You were both so supportive of us and were the prime movers in establishing our Family Fun concert which has now become an annual event enjoyed by so many in the New Haven and Mary

Wade communities. Please accept our heartfelt condolences.

regards, Hal Spitzer, VP of the Board.

Hal Spitzer - December 04, 2015 at 05:10 PM

JL

“ *My beautiful friend and partner in Home Hemodialysis....Wonderful nurse, wonderful vibrant, happy person that loved everyone. I miss her so much. Never an unkind word, always smiling and thinking of everyone else even when battling cancer...that's just who you she was. I am so blessed to have known and worked with Denise for the short time that we did. You will always be in my heart. ...until we meet in heaven xxxxxxxx*
Judy Lawrie

Judy Lawrie - December 04, 2015 at 03:45 PM



“ *Rosemary, you are the most amazing person!!!!!! I have fond memories of you and Denise dancing!;) Sending you a giant hug!!!!!!!!!!!!!!*

Linda Busk - December 04, 2015 at 01:02 PM

CH

“ *Lots of love to you and your family, Rosemary. I'm so glad to have known Denise. What a wonderful, positive, amazing woman she was. She's so lucky to have had you as a sister and best friend.*

Cara Hart - December 04, 2015 at 07:51 AM

DJ

“ *Dr. Beverly Jackson purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Denise C. Nichols.*



Dr. Beverly Jackson - December 03, 2015 at 07:55 PM

BJ

“*Rosemary, May God give you comfort in the blessed hope of the resurrection when you shall see Denise again for "...God has not only raised the Lord but will raise us up through his power." 1 Corinthians 6:14*

Dr. Beverly Jackson

Beverly Jackosn - December 03, 2015 at 06:41 PM

CA

“*Cathy, Michael, Sarah and Andrew purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Denise C. Nichols.*



Cathy, Michael, Sarah and Andrew - December 03, 2015 at 05:54 PM

JC

“*Denise was always smiling and a true ray of sunshine to everyone she touched. I did not know her well, but what I did know of her was positive and joyful. My condolences to her family and friends, who I will keep in my prayers.*

Joanne Courtemanche - December 03, 2015 at 08:32 AM

AR

“*Rosemary, I didn't know your sister, but I know she was profoundly dear to you. May your love and the memories of a lifetime of friendship comfort you as you grieve and move through this transition. Sending sympathy and condolences to you and your loved ones.*



Ariane - December 03, 2015 at 06:31 AM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Denise C. Nichols.*



December 02, 2015 at 10:33 PM



“ *I have a very fond memory of a summer long ago when Denise helped us with the Hamden Community Theatre (in fact, I have a fond memory of both Nichols sisters doing that)!*

When my time comes, I only hope I can have half the courage of Denise Nichols.

Ed Menta

Ed Menta - December 02, 2015 at 09:43 PM



“ *310 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Sisk Brothers Funeral Home - December 02, 2015 at 12:58 PM

MD

“ I know Denise would have been proud of her 'dash'. (Poem by Linda Ellis). She was loving, laughing, warm and sincere. What a privilege it was to have spent a short time with her in the West of Ireland this Summer; a trip she had planned last year, and was determined to do.... and she did, with humor and bravery. I know she will have taken with her memories of the wind swept mountains, the wild sea, the people and the rhythms of Matt Molloy's. RIP Denise.xx

Love Marian and Mauricexx

MARIAN DEVENISH - December 02, 2015 at 05:03 AM

YO

“ Denise you will truly be missed. We had some great times as co workers..R.I.P gone but never forgotten?

yolonda - December 01, 2015 at 08:53 PM

LD

“ Rosemary, Mark, and Barbara,
We are so sad to say good-bye to Denise. Her passing leaves a void for the many people whose lives she touched. We have great memories of time spent together. Our prayers are especially offered for you three. God Bless.
The California DuFresnes

Lindsay DuFresne - December 01, 2015 at 07:17 PM

BP

“ Denise was a kind wonderful person. My mom who volunteered in pre op testing Betty Panza was very close to her and loved her lots. I remember from her days on cel 3 as a nurse. I was and still am a supply clerk. Her memory will be carried forever in our hearts. Our condolence to the family. Betty and Joe Panza

Betty Panza - December 01, 2015 at 07:13 PM

JB

“ i as very saddened to hear of her passing. growing up on battis rd with the Nichols family was like being apart of the family. even though denise was the youngest of all of us kids, we never left her out. I remember sleepovers, having puppet shows and good times all around. denise was like the baby sister I always wanted. she was always laughing and smiling even when we as older kids picked on her. her kindness and caring touched many lives. may she never be forgotten. the world was to a much better place wit her in it.

*with much sadness in my heart
judy(parent) burt*

judy burt - December 01, 2015 at 07:11 PM

SK

“ I am so sad to hear of the passing of a good friend from high school. Denise and I were rifle twirlers for the Hamden High School Band. We had so many great times together. She was always there for me. She was a great listener. She always had a smile on her face. To her family, Please know I will keep you all in my prayers. Rest in peace my friend...

Sue Le Grand Kelley

Sue Kelley - December 01, 2015 at 06:12 PM

AW

“ Denise, was one of the nicest people I ever met..I enjoyed working with her and she was a caring and compassionate nurse...RIP Wonderful Woman, you will be missed...



Angela Wilkerson - December 01, 2015 at 05:42 PM

JL

“ *Jill Little sent a virtual gift in memory of Denise C. Nichols*



Jill Little - December 01, 2015 at 05:17 PM

MD

“ *The Dash by Linda Ellis. Denise would be pleased with her 'dash'. She was loving, laughing, warm and sincere. What a privilege it was to spend a short time with her in the West of Ireland this Summer: a trip she had planned last year and was determined to do... and she did with humour and bravery. I know she will have taken with her the memories of the mountains, the sea and the rhythms and dancing of Matt Molloy's. RIP Denise. x*

Love Marian and Maurice

Marian Devenish - December 01, 2015 at 04:46 PM

SM

“ *Denise always followed Robert Kennedy's advice and 'lit a candle rather than curse the darkness'. We will miss her smile and everything about her that that made you feel special when you were around her.*

I and all the Myers share in your (our) loss.

Sheldon Myer

SHELDON MYER - December 01, 2015 at 04:28 PM

HA

“ *I send sympathy and condolences and prayers. Peace be with you.* ”



Holly Adamo - December 01, 2015 at 02:17 PM

DE

“ Denise was a great person so loving and always giving to others she choose the right profession becoming a nurse.

I remember the day she walked in my angel store 8 years ago the chemistry was instant and we became fast friends. Something that doesn't happen to often but then again Denise is easy to love.

From there I was blessed with getting to know Rosie (Denise's sister) to Anne Marie , Elyse and Mary and I am sure many more.

In the back of my store was a round table where Denise , Jackie and myself would sit often and tell each other about our lives, our ups and downs but mostly we would support and love each other . We called ourselves the “ Circle Girls”

I was honored and blessed to have Denise be a part of not only my life but my families as lives as well.

Even though Denise isn't here in the physical world anymore she still sits at the circle with us and always will. She will always be with me and my daughter Jessica (who loves her dearly) and will guide me from time to time and send me messages and I am sure laugh at me.

It is rare that you meet someone that not only touches your life but your heart as well and I was fortunate to have had both with Denise.

I love you always xoxo

denise - December 01, 2015 at 12:55 PM

KR

“ *Kathy Rodd lit a candle in memory of Denise C. Nichols*



Kathy Rodd - December 01, 2015 at 12:45 PM

LO

“ *Rosemary, Mark and Barbara, We were all saddened to hear about Denise. So many wonderful memories of her growing up in the neighborhood. She always had a smile on her face and laughter in her heart. She truly will be missed by all of us. May you know she is with your mom and dad now and already singing with your mom!! Again, our deepest sympathy. Loraine Beauton Mallinson*

Loraine - December 01, 2015 at 06:21 AM

ES

“ *She wasn't just always nice, she was always SUPER nice!*

Eric Stowe - November 30, 2015 at 11:57 PM

CC

“ *Carolyn Chappell lit a candle in memory of Denise C. Nichols*



Carolyn Chappell - November 30, 2015 at 02:52 PM