



Nola Raye Della-Monica

March 7, 1953 - November 11, 2014

Nola Raye Della-Monica, of Hudson, NH, went home to be with the Lord on November 11, 2014 at Merrimack Valley Hospice House in Haverhill, MA.

Nola was born on March 7, 1953, in Stoneham, MA, to Wyvern Smith and the late Verna (Martin) Smith.

Nola was the loving wife of Glenn Della-Monica, with whom she shared 36 years of marriage.

Nola spent more than 30 years as a clinical Registered Nurse, culminating as the Director of several departments at California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco. She then received her PhD from Boston College and served the nursing profession for her last six years as a nursing professor, most recently at Emmanuel College in Boston. She loved her students so much that she attended their graduation last Spring in a wheelchair within days of being released from the hospital after major surgery.

A strong advocate of lifelong learning for nurses, Nola even encouraged all of her caregivers during her six year battle with cancer to pursue advanced college degrees, sometimes from a gurney while being wheeled into surgery.

For nearly three decades, Nola has served the Church of the Nazarene as a Sunday school teacher for children, youth and adults. She served several

terms on the church boards in California and New Hampshire. As a missionary, she taught children's classes and helped construct churches in Mexico, Fiji and Panama.

As a member of the International Association for Human Caring, she spoke passionately about her Nurse Caring Theory as close to home as Boston, and as far afield as Freemantle, Australia. Her theory, developed while at Boston College, shows that presence in the moment, technical competence and compassion for and connection with the patient are all necessary for the most effective nursing care.

Nola enjoyed travel, especially to Maine and Walt Disney World. She was also an avid reader of mystery novels and historical works.

In addition to her loving husband, Glenn, and her father, Wyvern, Nola is survived by her brother, Jeffrey Smith of Valley Center, CA, her sisters Nona Smith of Brooklyn, NY, and Cathleen Ristaino of Londonderry, NH, and brothers-in-law Mark Ristaino of Londonderry, NH, and Robby Dellamonica of Redding, CA. She is also survived by nieces Natasha Nola Ristaino and Ashley Verna Smith, nephews Mark Anthony Ristaino and Nathan Barry Dellamonica, and grand-niece Alexis Ann Marie Dellamonica.

Services for Nola will be held at Community Chapel Church of the Nazarene, 5 St Laurent St, Nashua, NH 03064, on November 22, 2014 at 11 AM with a gathering for lunch at the same location afterward. Interment will be in Maine at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, Nola wanted donations sent to Nazarene Compassionate Ministries through Community Chapel Church of the Nazarene (www.community-chapel.org), or Home Health & Hospice Care of Merrimack, NH, who provided home care (www.hhhc.org), or Merrimack Valley Hospice House, where she received her final care (<https://www.hhf.thankyou4caring.org/GiveN>

ow). Please indicate the donation is in memory of Nola.

Previous Events

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

NOV **22**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Community Chapel Church of the Nazarene
5 St. Laurent Street
Nashua, NH 03064

Tribute Wall



“ *Nola Raye Della-Monica*

October 06, 2023 at 08:13 AM



“ *Nola Raye Della-Monica*

September 27, 2023 at 04:05 AM



“ *Nola has been a dear friend and colleague for so many years, and I am grateful for the many gifts she shared - a brilliant mind, a caring and generous spirit, and a strong faith. She and Glenn have been there through good times and bad, bringing a sense of faith, hope and love to all of life. I remember the calming presence of her smiling face at the table during my dissertation defense- her presence was a gift in so many circumstances. I am grateful to God for all that Nola shared with me and all who encountered her. She will be missed. May she enjoy the love and presence of God forever.*

Terri Jabaley - November 20, 2014 at 01:40 PM



“ *I always remember Nola coming into the kitchen in the afternoon to sit and stitch with the ladies. She always had a smile on her face. We will miss her, but we know she is always with us. Much love and hugs to you, Glenn. We miss you too.*

Geri Royer - November 17, 2014 at 05:51 PM

PC

“ *Patti Beaton Carter lit a candle in memory of Nola Raye Della-Monica*



Patti Beaton Carter - November 17, 2014 at 04:38 PM

JP

“ *Glenn, The first thing that comes to mind when I think of Nola is her laugh. You felt good in her company. You both made us feel welcome on our visits from Sacramento, CA. May the good memories help you through the tough times. Judy and Steve Prey*

Judy Prey - November 16, 2014 at 10:57 PM

JM

“ *Dear Nola your are so much loved. As a colleague, I was a beneficiially of your regular professional support in good and stressful days. You made the work environment a nice place to be. You will always be remembered. Joshua Muliira*

Joshua Muliira - November 16, 2014 at 10:19 PM

RM

“ *Dr. Della Monica was my professor at Emmanuel College and she will be greatly missed by students and faculty. We were lucky to have such an articulate, kind and brilliant professor. She was instrumental in developing the Masters in Nursing Program at Emmanuel and she encouraged excellence and lifelong learning for all nurses. My thoughts and prayers to her family.*

*-Regina Davis, BSN, RN
Boston*

RMD - November 16, 2014 at 11:21 AM

FC

“ Nola was a classmate at Stoneham High School class of 1971. I am so sorry to hear of long illness and her passing.

*Frank Capuano
Stoneham Ma.*

Frank Capuano - November 16, 2014 at 07:12 AM

JT

“ Nola was a high school classmate whom I always admired. Kind and quietly competent, it is no surprise that she did such good work in her lifetime. My condolences go out to her family.

Janet Towse

Janet Towse - November 16, 2014 at 06:14 AM

JF

“ Nolan was a caring and gentle friend. Her kind spirit and friendship were so important to me in high school. Anyone who knew her was fortunate to have felt her kind spirit.

Jane Finger - November 15, 2014 at 08:44 PM



“ Basket of Joy was purchased for the family of Nola Raye Della-Monica.



November 14, 2014 at 06:42 PM

LZ

“ Dear Nola, I can never forget your sweet smile and your kindness that touches everyone who knows you. I am so honored and humbled to know and work with you! Your integrity and intelligence set an example for your students who pursue excellence. I am indebted to your courage and your great sense of justice and rightness. I forever thank you! Love & Peace...

Lin Zhan - November 14, 2014 at 05:55 PM

LH

“ Nola and I were real buddies through out our early years.. We sang in the choir together, we had sleep overs! We walked across town in all types of weather from Cedarway to Cedar Ave. I joined the Rainbow Girls, she joined too. She went through the chairs, I Was so proud I gave her my Rainbow ring! Unfortunately we lost touch when she moved west, but most of my fond memories of my youth have Nola in them. Rest in peace dear friend, move over Angels, Nola was an earth angel if ever there was one. Love, Linda Bacon Hill



Linda Hill - November 14, 2014 at 07:10 AM

NO

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Nona - November 13, 2014 at 05:41 AM

SR

So very sorry to hear of Nola's passing, Spent many years at the Smiths family home in Stoneham-Wonderful family and my deepest condolences.Thoughts and prayers with you all!

Sharon Ruff - November 13, 2014 at 11:28 AM

JN

Don and I will be praying for Glenn and the family. Nola was a great lady and a wonderful Christian. Don & Julie Nickles

Julie Nickles - November 13, 2014 at 05:27 PM

MS

I was looking through old minutes of board meetings from Christ Community Church Concord. Nola's name was all throughout the minutes from the late 90's and early 2000's. She was vital in all of the work that led to the name change for the church. My thoughts and prayers are with you Glenn. May God grant you peace, grace, and comfort.

Monty Stewart - November 13, 2014 at 08:16 PM



Smith family was a second family to me, years of memories Thorleys going to church and school alongside Smiths. Nola always a bright presence. My love and condolences to Dad, Jeff, Nonie, Kathy...

Stephen Thorley - November 13, 2014 at 10:12 PM

DN

Nola, Glen and I had wonderful conversations at MCPHS SON. She was a truly caring person who walked the walk of caring, beyond talking the talk. Diana Newman

Diana Newman - November 14, 2014 at 08:16 AM

NC

Nola was a consummate educator and one of the experts in the profession of nursing who will be dearly missed. She encouraged me to pursue a PhD. I enjoyed working with her at MCPHS SON. Glenn you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Nick & Vinny

Nick Carte - November 14, 2014 at 12:51 PM

LZ

I remember when the first day Nola came to teach she came with great confidence, gentle smile, brilliant notes, and beautiful presence! She is a great professor and dear friend!

I forever cherish our time together - laughter, debate, puzzling, and smile. Her smile is contiguous affecting those with her.

My thoughts are with Glenn and family, my love and condolences to Glenn and nola family.

Glenn - may beautiful nola brings peace...

Lin Zhan - November 14, 2014 at 06:04 PM

PC

Nola was a classmate and we grew up together on Cedar Ave in Stoneham. We had a lot of good times together and I loved going to Maine with her as kids. She was such a brilliant and loving teacher and mentor. God Bless you Nola you are missed and Heaven has gained a remarkable Angel.

Patti Beaton Carter

Patti Beaton Carter - November 17, 2014 at 04:36 PM

AW

A few words from Nola's Harrison, ME, buddy, from our early years, and into college. Two memories arise for me: In 1968-69, she invited me to her parents' home in Stoneham. We high school girls went out one night to the Big City, taking the train in to see the musical, Hair. Us! In the summer of 1972, she took me into her Portland apartment, as a (near-penniless), college student-roommate. She worked at Mercy Hospital then; each night she'd be seen climbing uphill, into the darkness, in her crisp, white uniform. She was my good and true friend. I shall miss you, Nola. (Anne Ward)

Anne Ward - November 19, 2014 at 07:16 PM

JM

Dear Nola, You are an amazing woman, a brilliant scholar, a dedicated nurse, and a most wonderful friend. Your quick mind, your enthusiasm for teaching and learning, your generous contributions to every effort, your warm presence and wonderful humor will be so deeply missed by all who knew you at Emmanuel. Thank you for sharing your life with us. Hugs to you in heaven, Janice Bell Meisenhelder

Janice Meisenhelder - November 19, 2014 at 08:41 PM

JM

I was very young when I met Nola. She was my best friend's big sister and lived next door to us. I remember her as kind, intelligent, caring and mischievous. We all (Jeff, Nona & myself) looked up to her as the ultimate authority on the big world around us. She was generous with me and shared a glimpse of what being grown-up would be like. It has been forever since our paths have crossed but kindness and generosity are never forgotten. Thank you Nola for being in my young life.

Jay Mason - November 22, 2014 at 08:14 AM

BH

“ Our sincere and heartfelt sympathy goes out to Glenn and Nola's family. She was a blessing to us while living in Sacramento and will always be remembered for her kind heart, her giving spirit and being a woman of great faith. Love, Bob and Glenda Hermsmeier

Bob and Glenda Hermsmeier - November 12, 2014 at 09:09 PM