



## Rita Delores Palin-Foster

December 17, 1950 - May 10, 2020

Rita Delores Palin-Foster, was born December 17, 1950 in Jamaica Queens, New York to the late Fannie Mae Scott. She entered into eternal life on May 10, 2020.

Rita graduated from Martin Van Buren High School in Queens, New York. She continued her education at the Univeristy of the State of New York to become a Regisered Nurse. Helping others was Rita's calling. For 48 years, she cared for those in her charge with an extraordinary passion and zeal. Her dedication extended to her church, Trinity Baptist Church as well, where she was a devoted servant for her Lord and Savior.

In 1988 she met Raleigh E. Foster, Jr. They joined in holy matrimony August 5, 1989. Rita was extremely family oriented. "Mrs. Rita" as she was affectionately called, loved life and laughter. Whenever she entered a room, her presence was immediately felt.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Raleigh E. Foster, Jr. Rita leaves to cherish her memories daughter, Kia; son, Travis (Angela); granddaughter Kiana; a host of family members, close relatives and dear friends.

# Cemetery Details

## Roselawn Memory Gardens

13389 Mountain Road  
Glen Allen, VA 23059

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

MAY 16. 1:30 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home -Laburnum Chapel  
2110 E. Laburnum Ave.  
Richmond, VA 23222

# Tribute Wall



“ To View the Webcast of the Funeral for Rita Delores Palin-Foster, Please Click the Link below.



March Funeral Homes - May 15, 2020 at 11:15 AM

LG

*I love you Rita and will always be grateful for your generous teaching, smiles, laughter and hugs. It was always a highlight of my day to see you and Gilda looking all classy on M9W and it helped that there were usually therapy dogs visiting you whenever I dropped in. You are one-of-a-kind, and will be missed beyond measure, much love and gratitude to your beautiful spirit. I love you Mrs Rita ❤️*

Lynn Gufeld - May 15, 2020 at 10:39 PM



*I love you grandma Rita! May you forever rest in paradise. 💜*

Nyasia Elaine - May 16, 2020 at 01:33 PM

SS

*Ms. Rita, you will always hold a special place in my heart. You taught me so much when I was a new nurse. Our night shifts were a cherished time that I will never forget. Thank you for your compassion and generosity. My deepest sympathy goes to your family during this time.*

Stephanie Stamper - May 16, 2020 at 01:58 PM



*I love you Momma Rita R.I.P. wishing I could be there to say farewell. Travis and Kia Love you guys , hoping for better days to come with the Lords power and belief in him shall come .. Last but not least I hope we can all get together so we can cherish memories as a family so our kids will know what family is all about with love Raleigh...*

**Raleigh Foster** - May 16, 2020 at 02:38 PM

JM

*Mrs. Rita you will be truly missed. You taught me a lot over the years that we worked together, I will miss our conversations even after I left 9 west I would still come by to see you and Mrs.Gilda it was always like old times you could feel the love in the room. I will miss your smile, your laugh, and more....Your at peace now.I love you Mrs.Rita, I will forever cherish the memories that we all shared and that one day we will see each other again, continue to watch over all of us until then. 🌹*  
*Love your Woosha*

**Jynes Mayo-Martin** - May 16, 2020 at 09:54 PM



“ *Rita Delores Palin-Foster*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM

SA

“ *Rita left so many of us with so may wonderful memories!!! Her laughter will simply make your day better. I will miss Rita, always known as Mrs. Beautiful Rita to me. You are now with our Heavenly Father and we know you are in paradise!! I'll miss you but your memories and last always.*

*Sanya*

**Sanya** - May 19, 2020 at 10:12 AM

VJ

“ Peace and rest be with you Ms. Rita. I will miss your smiling embrace and presence of sophistication and style. God speed.

Vanessa Johnson  
Trinity Baptist Church

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Vanessa Johnson - May 16, 2020 at 07:57 PM

HS

“ So many memories....from breakfast at Skull and Bones, parties at my house, Jack the wolf, coining the phrase MR. Rita, our matching cow lab jackets, Gilda shoving us in a closet because we were laughing so hard on North 9 transplant, to sharing a beer and or a shot of tequila. Thank you for taking me under your wing and teaching me the ropes of nursing but also of life. Thank you for your humbleness, laughter, love and friendship. You will be truly missed. Love you my friend,  
Helen Schmidt

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HELEN SCHMIDT - May 16, 2020 at 06:25 PM

SH

“ My deepest, most sincere condolences. I will miss her laugh the most. It was one of a kind! RIP Grandma :(

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Shena Harris - May 16, 2020 at 02:31 PM

PF

“ Mrs. Rita, I still cant believe you are gone. I dont think we will be the same. You were always an angel, a smiling face. Ready to give kisses and hugs. I will miss most, your laugh. We shared so many beautiful times. I know you are happy now with Triggy. We love you and you will truly be missed. Love The Galvan family.

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Patricia Galvan and family - May 16, 2020 at 01:51 PM

Renee  
Gill

“ I love you and will always have a special place in my heart for you Aunt Rita. ❤️ You have left me with so many great memories of you, mommy and daddy.



Renee Gill - May 16, 2020 at 01:39 PM

VW

“ Rita Delores Palin-Foster, we met greater than 30 years ago, and ever since our friendship and love for one another with our families grew. We worked alongside each other at Elmhurst Hospital in Queens. Our friendship grew each passing day, month, year as we watched our children grow. We explored the world on our vacations, we danced and clubbed back in the day. We went through trials and tribulations always coming out on top of all matters. Rita was my "sister from another mother", and my son regarded her respectfully as his "other mother", someone he could come to if need be. In these passing days since your transition, it is very hard to accept the loss of such a loved one, but I know that you are at Peace and that I knowingly have to accept this. I will always hold within my heart our sister friendship and love and reminisce. Rest In Heavenly Peace, my sister. Love you...



Valerie Ware-Hayes - May 16, 2020 at 01:21 PM

TF

“ I love you Aunt Rita!!! You were and will always be my ray of sunshine!!! You had a laugh that was contagious!!! I love you so much and you will always and forever live in my heart as someone that was loving, caring, selfless, goal oriented, strong, full of joy, and always knew what to say to brighten any situation!!! You will be missed dearly, but will always live in my heart!!! I love you my angel and until we meet again Tata!!!! Love you Ms. Ann!!



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**Tanisha Foster** - May 16, 2020 at 12:56 PM

GS

“ Gilda Sneed purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Rita Delores Palin-Foster.



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**Gilda Sneed** - May 16, 2020 at 11:00 AM

KM

“ Rita I love you and thank you for being in my life, teaching, comfort and guidance that you have given since we met in 2002 on N9. I will never forget your laugh and for sure how stubborn you could be at times. You were one of a kind and did not let anyone put you in a box, thank you for all your examples of grace, patients and friendship.

*Travis and Kia sorry for your loss and will pray for comfort during this time.*

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**Kelly McGill** - May 16, 2020 at 10:20 AM

KM

“ Kelly McGill sent a virtual gift in memory of Rita Delores Palin-Foster



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**Kelly McGill** - May 16, 2020 at 10:07 AM

LG

“ I love you Rita and will always be grateful for your generous teaching, smiles, laughter and hugs. It was always a highlight of my day to see you and Gilda looking all classy on M9W and it helped that there were usually therapy dogs visiting you whenever I dropped in. You are one-of-a-kind, and will be missed beyond measure, much love and gratitude to your beautiful spirit. I love you Mrs Rita ❤️

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**Lynn Gufeld** - May 15, 2020 at 10:41 PM

DW

“ Rita will for ever lives in our hearts her love and laughter will be remembered always. Cliff and Aunt Denise.

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**Denise Williams** - May 15, 2020 at 10:33 PM

CS

“ To my dearest Friend and I capitalize Friend. I love Rita Palin - Foster just like a sister who stayed on me to strive for the best. When miss Annie and I went to visit her two weeks ago she was full of spunk, we laugh and talked about old times. Im glad I was there when she needed a shoulder to lean on. I had to give that tough love on being patient about going back to work until she gotten better(she listened for a minute). But most of all I'm going to miss her telling me how much she loved me and how good of a friend I've always been to her. I as well telling her how much I loved her and how much of a good friend she has always been to me all these years. I will always be her Blondie. 💋💕💖. To Kia and Travis your mother loved you both and even though your hearts are heavy right now God is always your strength in the time of your sorrow.

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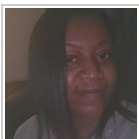
**Cassandra Smith** - May 15, 2020 at 10:26 PM



“ Wonderful nurse, amazing friend, kind, caring, compassionate, stubborn, full of life, wonderful smile, truly valued, respected. These are just some of the attributes I immediately think of when I think of Rita. For her family, words can not express how sorry I am for your loss. Hopefully, you can find some comfort in knowing that Rita had such a positive impact on so many people and so many people love her. All the patients that she cared for over the years, whether it was as their nurse or as their educator, she made a difference in their lives. She worked tirelessly at her job day after day to ensure patients received the best care possible. As a transplant educator, she would come early, stay late, work on a holiday just to make sure the patient had everything they needed before they were discharged. She really made an impact on everyone that met her. This is evident by the number of people that would “stop by” her office just to check in and say hello or the number of folks that continued to keep in touch with her by phone call, card or text. She truly loved her family and spoke of you often, always with pride and love in her voice. I am truly blessed to have known Rita and to call her my friend. I will miss coming around the corner and peeking in her office for a “Good Morning”. I will miss seeing what fabulous outfit and hairstyle she will be wearing. I will miss our girls night out, sharing some sweet wine. I will just miss her. Love you Rita!!!

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**Beverly King** - May 15, 2020 at 09:49 PM



“ This is tough!! Mrs. Rita , Mrs. Rita. There are so many things I can say, and I find myself unable to type this message without stopping to think a bout what an amazing person you were. I just chuckled, when we saw Mrs. Rita grab that chair out the hallway and head to the pt's room we all knew she was headed to do her teaching and give tough love to those who needed it. You will truly be missed. To the family, my sincere condolences to you all. We all LOVED her.

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**Tonette Taylor** - May 15, 2020 at 03:57 PM

JJ

“ *We Love you guys.*



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**Joe Robinson Jr.** - May 15, 2020 at 03:50 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Rita Delores Palin-Foster.*



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May 15, 2020 at 03:31 PM

“ To the children and family of Rita - I wish I could help ease the grief and the loss of your mother....your grandmother, sister, aunt, niece.....but please know how much she was loved and adored by so many people. My words are heartfelt as I am not a gifted writer but hope a gift will be given to you by these words.

Rita always had a twinkle in her eyes but when she spoke of you, that twinkle sparkled. Her beautiful smile grew larger and more radiant whenever she shared family moments with us. We always yearned to hear more about you, your adventures, your lives, your ups and downs but we were always interrupted by the tasks at hand. And those tasks were the caring of patients. Rita was all about service. She was a role model for so many of us. Her strength and compassion for serving others especially in the realm of transplantation was exemplary. She could be patient, she could be quick tempered, she could be brutally honest but also refreshingly kind. She solved problems with her wit and humor. Rita presented thought provoking ideas when it came to individualizing a treatment plan for the patient. She challenged everyone to become a better caregiver no matter what your role might be - whether a physician, administrator, nurse or housekeeper - she wanted the best for the patient and knew you could give more. Maybe through all her life experiences, through her many medical issues, she had become the expert.....no, the "Yoda" of transplantation. And we all wanted to be the best we could be to meet her expectations.

Personally, Rita was a friend you could depend on, lean into in times of trouble or despair, or when you were so tired you just needed her radiant smile to bolster you up. One situation that comes to mind (and there are so many), occurred many years ago when the ICU unit was located on the transplant floor. We were in the throes of resuscitating a patient. I was doing chest compressions, when Rita stepped into the room and said I had a phone call. I looked at her and shook my head "no", take a message. She gently came over and nudged me out of the way, started to do compressions and said, "you need to take this call". the phone call was from the daughter of a dear friend who had unexpectedly passed away that morning. Shock and tears came

*next. Rita was the only one who knew about this as the day was too busy and chaotic to take the time to grieve and/or think about what had just occurred. But, Rita, in her very sensitive and compassionate way, slipped a poem under my office door that night. I've kept it ever since. Maybe I've kept it this long because she would like to have me share it with you. The poem has meant so much to me and I've shared it with others trying to cope with loss. Rita has meant so much to me and will always be a part of who I am. I am humbled and honored to have called her my friend. What a privilege it has been.*

*"You can shed tears that she is gone,  
or you can smile because she has lived.  
You can close your eyes and pray that she'll come back,  
or you can open your eyes and see all she's left.  
Your heart can be empty because you can't see her,  
or you can be full of the love you shared.  
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday,  
or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.  
You can remember her only that she is gone,  
or you can cherish her memory and let it live on.  
You can cry and close your mind,  
be empty and turn your back.  
Or you can do what she'd want:  
smile, open your eyes, love and go on."  
by David Harkins*

*With the utmost respect for you and your family,  
Kathy Kane ( & Brian too)*

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**Kathy Kane** - May 15, 2020 at 02:47 PM

MR

*Thank you for sharing this beautiful poem, Kathy*

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**Mary Ann Riter** - May 16, 2020 at 02:59 PM

JF

“ *Just a group of Las Vegas friends. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Rita Delores Palin-Foster.*



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**Just a group of Las Vegas friends.** - May 15, 2020 at 11:27 AM

Dee  
Parker

“ *This one hit hard...Rita will always be remembered for her beautiful smile and heart. She taught me so much while working with her on M9W as the Care Coordinator. Words can not explain how I am feeling right now. I am lighting this candle for Rita, her family and all of those who love her. Sending Prayers for Strength and Peace to the family. Fly High my friend, you will be truly missed, but NEVER forgotten.*



*Diane*

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**Dee Parker** - May 15, 2020 at 10:39 AM

SB

“ So shocking to here that one of our Divas from Trinity Baptist Church is gone home to glory. MS. RITA always fancy with all her jewelry and her hair up in a bun. Ms. RITA was very sweet kind and very lovable lady. She has always been so real and caring. And very helpful. If our ministry need anything she never mind helping. Ms. Rita I am going to Miss you sitting right behind me at church letting my son Chance pull all on you and your jewelry. And you picking up everything he throw behind us. MS. RITA MS. RITA you will be missed. Continue being an Angel in heaven as you were on earth. Love by Shalonda Brokenberry and Chance Joseph



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Shalonda Brokenberry - May 15, 2020 at 09:10 AM

LW

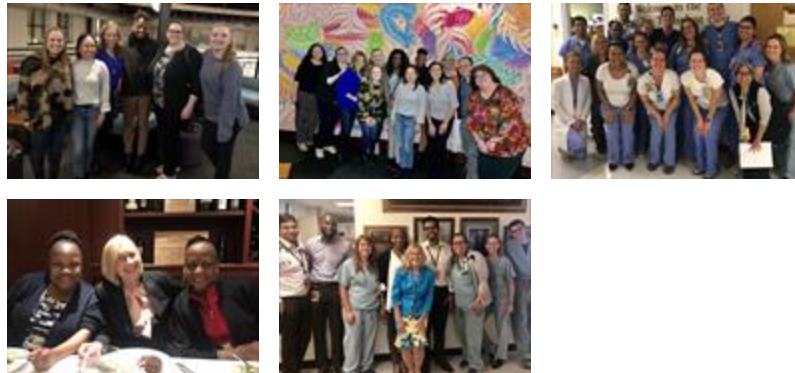
“ "Hey Woosah"!! That was our greeting to one another. Mrs. Rita always put a smile on my face even when I didn't want to smile. She will always tell me "not today Woosah you better put that smile back on that pretty face of yours"!! Every time I see her I would say " I see you looking cute over there". Her positivity kept me grounded. She stayed on me about my health. Mrs. Rita was like family to me. I use to love telling her stories about my nephew KaSoul just to make her laugh. She loved us like her own. I will truly miss her lovable spirit but I will continue to smile like she told me and be my Diva self like she showed me. I'm gonna miss you "My Woosah". Rest in Paradise.

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LaTosha Walker - May 15, 2020 at 07:59 AM

JA

“ 6 files added to the album Memories Album



Jeanette Amery - May 14, 2020 at 09:49 PM

KE

“ Ms. Rita had the most caring and uplifting soul. She was a great nurse, educator, but most of all a great friend. I confided in Ms. Rita through difficult times. Especially when I was having trouble trying to get accepted into nursing school. When I didn't believe in myself, she believed in me. She told me to keep trying, and to never give up. That her start in nursing was similar to mine and not to worry myself to death. When I told her about my acceptance, she started crying and gave me the biggest hug. She was always my #1 supporter, and my shoulder to cry on. We will all miss her tremendously and will continue to make her proud!

Kendra - May 14, 2020 at 06:43 PM

CH

“ *Ms. Rita taught me a lot in my 6 years on M9W. She taught me not to be intimidated by anyone. She taught me how to advocate for my patients. She taught me that every patient is teachable, even when it seems impossible. She taught me not to sweat the small stuff. She taught me that therapy dogs can turn any day around. She taught me how to be sassy. She taught me to be positive no matter what is going on around you. ❤️*

*She always knew when I needed a Ms. Rita hug and I looked forward to that every single day. ❤️*

*Transplant will never be the same without you, we love and miss you.*

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**Casey Herrera** - May 14, 2020 at 06:07 PM

KS

“ Rita was an inspiration, she was the energizer bunny with a great sense of humour, great love of animals and called things as they were. She did not like idiocy but could play pranks with the greatest twinkle of her eyes and her brilliant smile. I can truly say, she was my friend and I loved visiting with her every time I was at the hospital. The only time I ever saw her speechless was when I pulled my new puppy out of her carrier in her office.....she hugged on her and just cried because she was so happy. She listened to my stories, worried about me and I loved her dearly. I will miss her greatly at the hospital. Both my dogs know the command, “Go see Rita” and they led me through the hospital, gTo off on the correct floor and always led me straight to her office. She adored Kepler and Schiller but also all the Dogs on Call Dogtors.



Katia Simmons - May 14, 2020 at 05:08 PM

ES

“ Ms. Rita was truly one of a kind. She was the most caring and dedicated nurse I know, and truly loved what she did. Her patients adored her and would really listen to her, she had that gift. She was a feisty one too, and had one of the best laughs I've ever heard. She was always so put together - head to toe! I will miss my visits with her, and of course her laugh. I'm sorry we never had that shopping trip - (I could still use some help). Rest easy, Ms. Rita. I know you are reunited with your Mr. Rita right now, and that gives us peace.

Erin Schulz - May 14, 2020 at 09:43 AM

PS

“ *This was a woman of great grace and presence.....one who held all around her to high expectations, who did not suffer fools, but who reached out with kindness and compassion to all. We will miss her smile, her warmth, her humor, and her example of strength and peace in times of challenge. Thank you to her family for sharing her with the Transplant Team at MCV/VCU. She enriched all of our lives and those of every patient for whom she cared.*

*Peggy Schaeffer*

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**Peggy Schaeffer** - May 14, 2020 at 09:37 AM

NE

“ *Rita always had a big smile  
Rita always gave a good hug  
Rita always had the best advice  
Rita always loved the animals  
Rita always dressed to the tee  
Rita always knew how to have a great time  
But most of all Rita was always a good and kind friend  
Ms. Rita you will be so missed but your memory will live with us all.  
Love your Friend, Nanette*



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**Nanette Eubank** - May 14, 2020 at 09:31 AM



“ *The most compassionate and caring nurse I know. It was an honor to have Rita as my friend and co-worker. Rest in peace, my friend. Blessings and prayers for healing to all of the family members.*

*Susan Land*

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**Susan Kelhart Land** - May 14, 2020 at 09:23 AM



“ *God bless you Ms. Rita...you were my inspiration..rest on my sistah...*

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**Brenda Blagmon** - May 13, 2020 at 08:45 PM

SP

“ A beloved friend was lost this past weekend, Rita Palin Foster. My eyes are swollen, my heart is broken. I am not alone. She had so many people that loved her. Rita and Gilda were the dynamic duo for so many years... Rita was a nurse with the transplant program at MCV/VCU Health for almost 3 decades. She dedicated her life to caring for transplant patients, teaching transplant recipients and their families much of what they needed to know before leaving the hospital. She taught nursing students and nursing staff, med students, surgery interns and residents, social workers, dietitians, as well as pharmacists. There were so many details about transplant education that we needed to know.

Rita was preceded in death by her husband Raleigh (fondly called Mr Rita) in May 2017.

Rita had a beautiful smile, a sweet laugh, a sharp sense of humor, a sparkle in her eye. Rita loved clothes (jewelry to match) and always looked her best. She could be fierce; she was a patient advocate and did not accept second best. She was a precious friend.

Condolences to all the family...

Stacey and Marc Posner

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Stacey Posner - May 13, 2020 at 05:29 PM

SP

“ 28 files added to the album Memories Album



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**Stacey Posner** - May 13, 2020 at 05:26 PM

SP

*Years of friendship and so many special memories...*

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**Stacey Posner** - May 13, 2020 at 05:31 PM

TT

*I will dearly miss Rita's smile and warm hugs. She was always a smiling pillar of strength no matter what she was enduring in life, and always gave of herself to others. This is a terrible loss for us, but I know she is forever reunited with her beloved Mr. Rita and Samson. Deepest sympathies to the family.*

*Tina Trice*

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**Tina Trice** - May 14, 2020 at 08:33 AM

MR

*I am thankful I was blessed to know Riter. She was warm and supportive with a great sense of humor. She will be greatly missed by all who were blessed to know her.*

*Mary Ann Riter*

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**Mary Ann Riter** - May 16, 2020 at 03:26 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Rita Delores Palin-Foster.*



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May 13, 2020 at 05:13 PM



“ *We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.*

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**March Funeral Homes** - May 12, 2020 at 05:17 PM