



Paula Murdock

June 27, 1962 - August 26, 2021

Paula [middle name redacted] Murdock died on August 26, 2021 in Kansas City. We dare not speak her middle name; she hated it. She was born in 1962 to Mill & Marc Murdock, the 11th of their dozen children. A woman with the lethal combination of incisive intelligence, decidedly strong opinions, and an abundant four-letter-word vocabulary, her stubbornness and saltiness were somehow only outweighed by her humanitarianism. Volunteering and donating to organizations like Operation Breakthrough and Rose Brooks, anonymously paying for strangers' meals at restaurants, and giving stranded women rides home are just a few ways she showed her children, family, and friends what it means to be compassionate and act for the greater good. Her nickname "Sunshine" was meant to be ironic, but was, in fact, entirely appropriate.

Paula attended St. Francis Xavier, where she made lifelong friendships, and Southwest High School, where she met her future husband. They married and had two kids, Kevin and Daniel Mahaney, but only a few months into their youngest child's life, they divorced. Now a young single parent of two, Paula did everything in her power to provide her kids with a comfortable upbringing and lifetime of opportunities, and was ultimately successful.

Fiercely loyal, Paula worked at the same company for nearly two decades, never allowing her lack of a college degree to keep her from advancement. She established deep relationships with select co-workers, and made the

most of an occasionally rigorous work travel schedule by visiting as many major league baseball parks as she could along the way, always returning with souvenirs for her kids.

After happily exiting the workforce, Paula could be found assembling 2,000-piece single-colored jigsaw puzzles, devising clever life-hacks before life-hacks were even a thing, showing off her vast Royals shrine collected across 30 years of avid fandom, cooking meals large enough to feed several families because “there was a good deal at Price Chopper this week,” and hosting epic game nights for friends and family. Her booming laughter on these and other occasions could be heard throughout the metropolitan area, and now resounds in our hearts.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Mill & Marc; her brothers, Brian, Phillip, and Larry; and her beloved, venerated, treasured, cherished dog, Diamond. Perhaps the most hopeful thing about her tragic passing is the chance that Paula and Diamond are now reunited.

She is kept alive in memory by her first-born son Kevin, his wife Crystal, and their pupper Eleanor Roosevelt; by her youngest son Daniel, his wife Raelyn, and their son Ike; and by a Catholically large number of siblings, nieces, and nephews.

A memorial service for family and close friends, featuring way too much food, will be held on November 6th, in North Kansas City. In lieu of flowers, which Paula was highly allergic to, we ask that you consider donating to RoseBrooks.org. And, for God’s sake, don’t make it in her name; she’d be furious.

Tribute Wall

MC

“ I went to Southwest High School with Paula. She had been on my mind the last few days and I attempted to find her online via FB and maybe through the SWHS FB Group pages.

After an internet search, I found her here and this saddens me so. Each time I think of her, I have fond memories of us walking from school and her trying to teach me to play the piano. We would also role play our recent CPR training we had in school. We laughed each time it was our turn to say "Annie, Annie can you hear me?" She would always walk with me back to Wornall Rd. so I could catch the bus home.

I can still here her infectious laugh. It was very rare for her not be smiling and laughing.

I wish I would have found her sooner. My sincere condolences to the family.

Maria (Mary Helen) Clark - September 06, 2022 at 03:34 PM

RO

“ I was so shocked to have learned of Paula's passing. I met Paula in 1993 when I left South Western Bell and accepted a job at Sprint Publishing and Advertising. I was 24 at the time with no college degree. She showed me the ropes and five years later we spent hours on my resume wanting a job at Sprint headquarters. We never lost contact and I enjoyed many a game night. Her personality was infectious her laugh smile and genuine self was sunshine. I hadn't seen her in several years I moved to Florida but will never forget the time we had together

Robin Orrick - September 22, 2021 at 08:38 AM

BM

“*Paula was my first “real” teammate and colleague in the professional world. I was hired to take some workload off her desk, and I have so much appreciation for her teaching and mentorship so early in my career. Paula was dedicated and tenacious holding people (and customers) accountable for their responsibilities. While I can think of many “labels” for Paula like a co-worker, teammate, and mentor, she was a friend above all else. We had so many conversations over the years where she was either an ear just to listen or offering advice as I “grew up in the professional world” or went through struggles in my personal life. Paula talked so frequently about her family and her boys. More than anything, Paula was a “Mom.” She was quick to share stories about her boys and always wanting the best for each of them. We (and the Royals) lost a good one. Rest easy, my friend.*

Brett McConnell - September 20, 2021 at 06:26 PM

CM

“*I am so sorry. I worked with Paula at Sprint Publishing and vividly remember her quick wit and contagious laughter - and yes, her strong opinions too! It's been years since I've seen her but the obituary perfectly described and honored her. My heart goes out to her family and friends and I pray for comfort and peace for all of you. Cathy Martin*

Cathy Martin - September 12, 2021 at 01:07 PM

BB

“ I didn't know Paula for that long. I had the absolute pleasure of being her mail carrier for the last 5 or so years.

I loved every opportunity to talk to her. She was so kind and funny. It was always so good to see her. She was so excited to tell me about her grandbaby and to show me pictures. I will always cherish that I was able to be in her life.

When Christmas time rolled around I had the pleasure of receiving the treats she would make. Which included some amazing fudge.

I'm so sad to hear about her passing. My condolences to her large and loving family. She always talked so highly of you all.

Brianna Boyles - September 10, 2021 at 01:56 PM

AL

“ 1 file added to the album Game Night



Amy Lampo - September 09, 2021 at 06:40 PM

LD

“ To all of Paula's family and dear friends, I am so very sorry for this unexpected loss. I can't remember a time when I didn't know the Murdocks- some better than others. I think of Paula as such a generous soul. May you find comfort in the memories you share of her life.

On my walk this morning I went by our old house on 56th and Locust, and also passed by the Murdock's home on 56th and Cherry. Good times in these two homes!

Sending you love and light at this most difficult time.



Liz Donnelly - September 08, 2021 at 09:51 AM

ML

Warm thoughts and prayers for the extensive Murdock family. I always enjoyed visiting there home at 56th & Cherry in grade school. Lost touch over the years, but very sorry to hear about Paula's passing.
Mary Byrne Luder

Mary Byrne Luder - September 11, 2021 at 04:10 PM

C"

“ Paula gave the best hugs of anyone at a Murdock family event. She would squeeze you so close that you just knew that she was genuinely happy to see you. I'll miss that. - Carl aka "Pockets"

Carl aka "Pockets" - September 08, 2021 at 07:50 AM

KA

“ Anyone who knew Paula knew that she did not like to celebrate her birthday. When she was 48, I made her promise that we (Monica, Cathy J, Shirley, Amy and I) could throw a party for her and she agreed! Two years passed quickly and when I reminded her about the party, she tried to back out. But she had promised, so she said ok, but only close friends and family. She gave us a list of people, and then another list, and another. By the time the party rolled around we had over 50 people attend! So much for someone who didn't “like people”.

She had so many people who loved and adored her and I hope that day she felt it! I am going to miss her terribly!



kay - September 07, 2021 at 10:01 PM

KA

“ 4 files added to the album Paula's 50th



kay - September 07, 2021 at 09:48 PM

KG

“ The first word I think of is kind. Paula was so kind to me. I remember when Dan and I were 16, we got in a tiny car accident on a hill. Dan was the responsible one. I thought my taking my mom's car in the snow as a good idea. Terrible idea! Paula saved the day and helped us. She has been writing words of encouragement over facebook to me ever since. Paula was steadfast in believing in people and justice for everyone. She once tagged me in a post after she voted for Hillary Clinton as she was thinking of strong women. I have never felt so complimented.

Paula, in your memory I hope to support and lift up strong women like you did, love my family and raise good men like you did, and to be kind like you. Rest in power. - Kate Garman

Kate Garman - September 07, 2021 at 04:42 PM

DB

“ Paula and I grew up around the corner from each other. We played and fought our way through grade school and then went to different high schools. We still managed to find time to hang out together. I remember well her crush on a certain guy that went on to be her husband. Paula, Matt, Micah, and myself ran around together, laughed, and got into small bits of mischief. It was just fun! After high school, I saw less of Paula. Our lives went in different directions until about 20 years ago when I looked up all of my grade school classmates and we started having reunions. It was difficult to get Paula to come, but by the 2nd one she did! Sometimes, she and I would meet separately- to have a slice at Waldo Pizza, to see her son's latest t-shirt creation, or to visit an old neighbor who had opened her own restaurant. All good memories. She will be missed. Hugs Daniel and Kevin. She loved you in every word she spoke of you!

Denise Biersmith - September 07, 2021 at 04:19 PM

AL

“*Paula was brilliant, well-read and insightful. She did not need or want to be the center of attention; but, people were drawn to her. I will truly miss her sharp wit and quiet observations.*

When Paula found out I was getting a waffle maker for Christmas one year, she was quick to share a waffle recipe that I believe came from her mom. Paula was an excellent cook and shared lots of tips; but, the waffle recipe is my favorite.

3 1/2 Cups flour

1 tsp salt

6 tsp baking powder

4 egg yolks

2 1/2 Cups milk (1 tall can of evaporated milk water to = 2 1/2 cups)

1 Cup oil

4 egg whites

In small bowl, beat egg whites until stiff (room temp beats best)

In large mixing bowl, sift dry ingredients.

Gradually add milk, egg yolks & oil. Combine thoroughly.

Fold in egg whites.

Bake in hot waffle iron until steam disappears. Don't lift iron while baking.

Love to Kevin, Crystal, Daniel, Rae, Ike and the entire Murdock clan.

Amy Lampo - September 07, 2021 at 03:49 PM