



## Juta Kotkas Semmel

November 1, 2022

Ms. Juta Kotkas Semmel died on November 1, 2022 at the Windsor Rehabilitation Center in Windsor, CT. Juta was conceived in Estonia and born in a displaced persons camp in Augsburg, Germany on March 15, 1945. She was adopted by the late Jaak and Ella Kotkas. After graduation from Hartford High School and Morse College where she received her Associates Degree as a Medical Secretary. She worked for 5 years for Dr. Forest Gibson. She married the late Rev. Elwood O. Semmel and gave birth to three sons. She returned to the work force and worked at the Hartford Hospital Cancer Center for 25 years, retiring in March 2003. Known for her generous and caring spirit she was admired by co-workers, patients, and their families. She discovered her biological mother and eight half-siblings when she was 50 years old and became close to her second family. In spite of her apparent good health, Juta had a diagnosis of the very rare disease Fibromuscular Dysplasia. She is survived by her sons Erik and his wife Tisha and their three boys, Jacob, Kyle and Matthew; Martin and his wife Jennifer and their daughters Kaitlin and Julia and their son Daniel, and her last born, Andrew. There will be no calling hours and burial will be private. Memorial donations in her memory may be made to the FMDSA, 20325 Center Ridge Rd. Suite 620, Rocky River, OH 44116 or the Helen and Harry Gray Cancer Center, 85 Retreat Ave., Hartford, CT 06106-2527. On line messages of condolences may be made at [www.molloyfuneralhome.com](http://www.molloyfuneralhome.com)



# Tribute Wall

JL

“ It is with great sadness to learn of Juta's passing. I knew Juta for over 25 years as the best and most caring secretary that ever worked at the Hartford Hospital Cancer Center. She really served every patient that came through the door with special attention and made sure all of their needs were attended to. She had a huge heart, amazing generosity, and always a wonderful smile that brightened up the world around her. I extend my most sincere condolences to her family.

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**J. Lyon** - November 20, 2022 at 09:17 PM

ZM

“ As Andrew alluded to, Juta was the most kindest and gentlest person I have had the pleasure to know in my life. I am honored to have called her my friend and it pains me that we had not spoken much in the past year. Of all the people in my life, Juta taught me compassion and kindness and cemented my belief in a loving God. I'll always remember her smile and beautiful loving eyes. Sending prayers and condolences to all of the Semmel family at this time.



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**Zac Mirecki** - November 07, 2022 at 12:44 PM

AS

“ My sincerest condolences to the Semmel family. Juta was an amazing member of our cancer center team, cheerfully greeting patients and family members each and every day and brightening their lives through her smile and upbeat attitude. She was widely beloved by patients and staff alike. She took incredible pains to manage oncology schedules and ensure patients could see their doctor promptly. Her wit and kindness were key to the compassion and friendliness of our cancer center existing to this day and she will always be remembered for being a key employee and our best greeter to all we serve. She will be greatly missed by all in the Hartford Hospital family who had the privilege of working with her.  
Andrew Salner

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**andrew salner** - November 06, 2022 at 06:37 AM

RS

“ Marty, so sorry for your loss, my prayers go out to you and your family

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**ray santoro** - November 04, 2022 at 11:48 AM

DU

“ I don't know Juta or your family, I found this obituary because I have a google alerts set up for fibromuscular dysplasia (my four-year-old cousin has the rare disease). I read her obituary and I felt a warmth just hearing about her life and the impact she made on her family and coworkers. She sounds like she had a beautiful life and her presence will be missed. Thinking of her and your family today.

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**Dustin** - November 04, 2022 at 06:54 AM