

## Dee McMillan Nurse Partner Award 2009

She was born in San Antonio, Texas. She was attending a summer program at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill where she met her future husband, Robert McMillan. They fell in love and were married the following year, thus becoming Dee McMillan. After living in Michigan and Austin, Texas for a while, the south seemed like the right place for them. They moved to Greenville, N.C. , where both worked at Pitt County Memorial Hospital. Robert began working weekends at CMH and in 1985 became the Director of Radiology. This was fortunate for CMH because, in 1985 they moved their family, which by now was Robert, Dee, Barbara, Robbie, and Meggie to South Hill.

Dee began working at CMH in 1986. Even though she was not a nurse, nor did she give nursing care at the bedside, she certainly gave nurses' care. She knew the name of practically every nurse, nursing assistant, tech, and unit secretary that worked at CMH. She knew which ones were in school, when each one would graduate, what degree they obtained, and what departments they worked in. Dee never



complained or hesitated to assist anyone.

Many times Dee would leave her desk when called by a nurse to be an interpreter for a patient that could not comprehend English in order to provide the patient with an understanding of what procedures, diagnostics, etc. was being provided. Several years ago, CMH recruited quite a few Filipino nurses. Dee went above and beyond her job expectations in taking these nurses under her wings so to speak. She assured that these nurses got a warm welcome

and were taken care of by taking them out to dinner, orienting them to the community, introducing them to physicians, and other to help them adjust to a different country, environment, and culture. Many of those nurses continue to work at CMH and are part of the CMH family.

Dee was a phenomenal person that always saw the potential for success in everyone she met. She had a keen understanding for what motivated nurses. Dee had an incredible commitment and personal fortitude in working for CMH. She encouraged everyone that she encountered to be the best that they could be.

Dee was a loyal employee to CMH from 1986 until her death in 2007. She fought a courageous battle with cancer for the last 18 years of her life. She was a strong and dedicated person. Everyone that knew Dee remembers her with fondness and gratitude for the courage and faith she exemplified during the many years of her employment at CMH. She will always be remembered by her CMH family for what she stood for in her faith, community, family and friends.

This award will be presented to a Unit Secretary, Nursing Assistant, or a Nurse Tech each year on Nurses' Day in her honor, the Nurse Partner Award.

