



Mrs. Marcia S. Bulger

August 25, 1943 - January 21, 2026

Marcia S. Bulger, 82, of Cortland passed away on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center after a brief illness. Marcia was born August 25, 1943 in Cuba, N.Y. to Earl and Agnes (Cartwright) Stearns, and was raised in the nearby town of Friendship. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Physical Education from S.U.N.Y. College at Cortland in 1965. She married Charles "Terry" Bulger on August 7, 1965, and they made Cortland their home. When she returned to full-time classroom teaching in 1985, she resumed her education at Syracuse University, completing her Master of Science in Special Education in 1993.

Marcia devoted many years to education, working at the Cortland YWCA and YMCA, tutoring high-risk and incarcerated youths through the Cortland Youth Bureau, and ultimately retiring from OCM BOCES in Cortland, where she helped many students in the Cortland area earn their GED. Marcia gave her time and energy to numerous community organizations, including AAUW, Delta Kappa Gamma, the American Red Cross, the Learn-to-Swim program at Wickwire Pool, and the Cortland County Community Services Board. A lifetime member of Girl Scouts, she led the Brownie Girl Scout Troop at St. Mary's School for over 20 years. She was deeply involved in the Cortland City Fire Auxiliary and the Ladies Auxiliary of the Central New York Firefighter's Association, serving multiple terms as an officer in those organizations. She was also an avid card player and enjoyed traveling with the Cortland County

Senior Citizens.

Marcia was a communicant of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, a member of the St. Mary's Church Choir, and a 30-year member and past Regent of the Catholic Daughters of The America's Court #919 Cortland.

Survivors include: her two daughters, Michelle Bulger and Elizabeth Bulger, both of Baltimore, Maryland, sisters-in-law Eleanore Stearns (the late Cleo), Margaret Grant (the late Michael), and Susan Bulger (the late William), brothers-in-law Timothy Bulger (Linda) and James Bulger (Helen), and several nieces, nephews, and cousins. In addition to her parents, Marcia was preceded in death by her husband Terry in 1999, by her brothers, Lloyd and Cleo Stearns, and by her in-laws, William Bulger III, and Catherine and Raymond Niehus.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday Feb 7, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. in St. Mary's Catholic Church, The Christian Rite of committal and burial will follow in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery.

The family will be present to receive friends on Friday Feb 6, 2026 from 4-6 p.m. in the Chapel of Riccardi Funeral Home, 69 N. Main St.Cortland. In lieu of flowers, those who choose to honor Marcia's memory in the form of a contribution are asked to please consider;

Cortland County SPCA cortlandspca.org or the Cortland Community Foundation cortlandcf.org

Condolences may also be sent to the family by visiting www.riccardifuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall

CS

“ I am so sorry to hear about the passing of Mrs. B. She was my girl scout leader, and I learned so much from her. She was truly a warm and caring soul. Her impact on people cannot be understated.

Rest in peace - Cat Stevans

Cat Stevans - February 10 at 06:45 PM

JD

“ To the family of Mrs. B,
My daughter was a student at Cortland University and lived next to Mrs. B. for 2+ years.

My daughter & her roommate adored her and they called her Mrs. B.

Shortly after she moved in, I had the opportunity to meet Marcia. What a wonderful woman. She was warm and kind and I enjoyed the time we spent chatting. It was helpful knowing she was keeping an eye on the girls.

When Mrs. B. was away, my daughter would take care of her cat and enjoy in person visits of the cat to her apt.

I also remember a beautiful May day when the back yard of Marcia's home was a wonderland of beautiful wild flowers that looked like a place in Heaven.

I have no doubt she is in Heaven with her Savior and wearing a crown with many jewels representing her good works for The Lord on Earth.

I wish each of her family PEACE & COMFORT from the Holy Spirit. Mrs. B, you will be missed.

Thank you for being a bright LIGHT in the life of two young college students right next door. ❤️

Joni Dominy - February 07 at 10:45 PM

BT

“ Condolences to Marcia's family. Mrs. Bulger was the teacher my sons had for their GED classes, helping them succeed in subjects they struggled with for years. I've never seen a teacher fight for her students as much as Marcia did. Rest in peace. ❤️

Bonnie Thomas - February 07 at 08:14 AM

BG

“ I am so sorry to hear about the loss of Marcia Bulger, my condolences to the family. I was honored to know her from Boces McEvoy Center as my GED teacher. I accomplished that goal with many others because of her teaching me. I also worked with her at Wickwire pool doing swimming lessons. I am very grateful to have known her and will always be proud to call her my friend. Brenda Marks/ Golden

Brenda Golden - February 06 at 01:55 PM

JB

“ Condolences to the Bulger family.
My wife Linda had gotten to know Marcia quite well helping her with financial questions over the past many years. Myself your mom and dad were long time customers of mine with the Post Standard newspaper. Later in the years I spent in city office I would see her at the fire department and have wonderful talks with her.
Linda took joy not only with helping her but just talking with her.
Our hearts have been sadden greatly by her passing, but know the memories you have will not only last a lifetime but will bring smiles.
Again our deepest Condolences.

John & Linda Bennett

John & Linda Bennett - February 06 at 10:39 AM

JM

“ I’m so sorry to hear about Marcia. We had many good times together with the Red Cross swim program at Wickwire Pool, and many late evenings of bridge. She will be missed.
Jean Minnella

Jean Minnella - February 04 at 03:06 PM

MD

My condolences to Marcia's family & many friends...🙏💗.... Marcia was a doer & assisted many with her generosity in volunteering in so many organizations.... Marcia will be missed by all of those whose life's she touched....☐❗

Mike Dexter - February 06 at 05:03 PM

MI

“ Mildred purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Marcia S. Bulger.



Mildred - February 04 at 01:26 PM

TR

“ I got to know Marcia through Girl Scouts and St. Mary's. She was a special lady. May she rest in peace.

Teresa Ripley - February 02 at 05:57 PM

TR

“ Teresa Ripley sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Marcia S. Bulger



Teresa Ripley - February 02 at 05:56 PM

JP

“ Marcia is one of the most caring, devoted and positive teachers I have ever known.

John Piazza - January 30 at 06:40 PM

AS

“ Ana and John Srygley planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Marcia S. Bulger.

Ana and John Srygley - January 30 at 02:41 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Marcia S. Bulger.



January 30 at 02:41 PM

MS

“ Marcia was my cousin and after her retirement she came to visit me every spring. These visits meant a lot to me and I will miss the good times we had.

Mildred C. Smith - January 29 at 12:46 PM

KC

“ *Marcia, you were a bright light in the lives of many!!!!
I met Marcia after joining the St. Mary's Church Choir. Her
outstretched hands were a constant reminder of the love she had
for all!
My fondest memories of Marcia always laughing and joking around.
Marcia started a very fond memory of always going to The Big F
(Friendly's) after ever choir rehearsal.
You are in Heaven now, Marcia, laughing with our Lord! Thanks for
the memories!!!*

Kim Christie - January 28 at 11:42 AM

JP

*Marcia is one of the most caring, devoted and positive teachers I've
ever know.*

John Piazza - January 30 at 01:02 PM

MR

*The Reagan family is very grateful to Marcia for her years as a caring
and capable Red Cross Swim Instructor and for her commitment to
Brownies. Marcia holds a special place in our hearts.*

Mike & Kate Reagan - February 18 at 09:05 PM



“ *Going to miss you Aunt Marcia. You were such a big part of our
childhood, you made time to get to anything and everything that was
important to us and that includes your Great Nephew whether it was
Boston or Ohio you always showed up. Good to know you're at
peace with Mom and Dad and Uncle Terry, I will miss you dearly but
will treasure all the memories.*

Mark Niehus - January 26 at 03:13 PM