



## Margaret Patricia "Pat" Harr

August 22, 2022

Margaret Patricia "Pat" Harr, 80, of Asheville, North Carolina, and recently of Warwick, died August 22, 2022, at Kent County Hospital after a courageous battle against ALS.

Pat will be remembered for her kindness, strong faith, and compassion toward others. She was known for opening her heart and her home to all she met. Pat was born on February 16, 1942, in Bristol, Tennessee to Charles and Margaret (Dishner) Harr. She received her bachelor's degree in home economics and held two master's degrees in education, the second in Supervision with a specialization in exceptional children's education from Western Carolina University. In a teaching and education career that spanned nearly four decades, Pat started as a home economics teacher at North Cove High School in North Carolina. Later, she worked as Director of Exceptional Children's Education in McDowell County and as principal for the Burke County School System. Her final years of teaching were as Director of Exceptional Children's Education in Buncombe County Schools and as a frequent consultant to the State of North Carolina Department of Education. Throughout her career, Pat was known as a staunch and passionate advocate for students with medical and emotional needs in an effort to ensure that they had access to the resources they needed to live their best lives.

Outside of the classroom, Pat was an active member and an installed elder at First Presbyterian Church in Asheville. She dedicated many volunteer hours to those in the community who were in need. She was a gracious hostess,

wonderful cook, and she made any guest in her home feel like family. She enjoyed attending classical music performances at the Biltmore Estate in Asheville and spending time with her cherished friends and family. When faced with her diagnosis of ALS, Pat continued to live her life with grace and bravery, while participating in a study seeking to improve care for other patients faced with this disease

Pat and her long-time companion, Robert (Bob) Molezzo, moved to East Greenwich, RI in May. Pat had developed a fondness for East Greenwich after her previous visits, and she was excited to move to Brentwood by the Bay with Bob. They enjoyed spending more time with family, eating out at some of their favorite local restaurants, and being so close to the beautiful bay. While short lived, Pat enjoyed meeting new people and experiencing new sites while in Rhode Island. She enjoyed taking weekly mystery tours around the state. Her ever-present teacher mentality and desire to learn something new every day continued during this new chapter; many new memories were made. Pat enjoyed seeing the extended Harr family during the first Harr Family Reunion in July as they joined her at Brentwood for a lively pizza party.

During her stay in Rhode Island, Pat was loved and admired for her strength and perseverance as she dealt with the challenges of ALS. She was always a teacher at heart, so it is fitting that she taught us how to live, even during the most difficult circumstances led by her faith and devotion.

In addition to her dear companion Bob, she leaves her sister Linda Harr of Warwick; and her cherished nieces and nephews Robert Toning (Jennifer) of Holden, Massachusetts; Matthew Toning (Sonia) of Warwick; Virginia Toning of Boston Massachusetts; Dr. Charles (Dr. Debra) Harr of Charlotte, North Carolina; Jeff Harr (Tina) of Blountville, Tennessee; Vicki (Bill) Hightower, Kim Compton, Mark Harr, Curtis Harr, all of Bristol, Tennessee; Karen McMurray of Johnson City, Tennessee; Donna Harlan, of Jonesborough, Tennessee; Alice FitzPatrick of Ocala, Florida; and many other

dear friends, parishioners and family.

She was predeceased by her parents; her brothers Lloyd Harr, Wade Harr, Lawrence (Shot) Harr; and her sisters Phyllis Harr Childress and Deloris Cristian Harr.

We would like to thank the wonderful staff of Brentwood by the Bay and of Kent Hospital who, during her final days, helped to make Pat and her family as comfortable as possible.

A celebration of Pat's life will be held at a later date. In honor and in memory of Pat, donations can be made to the National ALS Society <http://www.alsa.org/donate/giving/gifts-in-tribute.html> : the National MS Society(team DWALLI) <https://mssociety.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=donate.team&teamID=29864> ; Emily's Pink Team (PO Box 541, Holden MA 01520), or to the charity of your choice.

# Tribute Wall

MW

“ I’m just stunned to have found this. Miss Pat was my kindergarten teacher at West Marion Elementary School in 1974. There was something so special about her and we had a very close bond. We stayed in touch while I was in school and I think of her often. My dad passed away in July 2019 from ALS. This is a horrible disease and I’m so very sorry for your loss.

Melissa Hawkins Wilson - December 26, 2023 at 09:19 PM

JM

“ One of my favorite people in my 30 years in education. Always kept me smiling. May God bless her family during this loss. she was a great asset wherever she was. So glad I got to be in her life!

Joyce Metcalf - October 19, 2022 at 11:42 AM

PH

“ My thoughts and prayers are with your family during this time. I taught with Pat for many years in McDowell County before she moved to Buncombe County in Western NC. She always had a smile and was great help when educating exceptional children in the regular classroom. She will be greatly missed



Penny Hemphill - September 01, 2022 at 07:40 PM

RP

“ I grew up with you all and have so many memories. Pat was always fun to be around and always had a smile. I will miss her at the family gatherings and her inquisitive conversations. Love and prayers to you all, this dear lady was special indeed!

Ruth Cummings Payne - August 28, 2022 at 02:33 PM

CY

“ To all of Pats Family, With heavy hearts we share in your loss. We were but a small part of Pat’s life but we will never forget how special she was to us.

*Tom-Carol-John-Meredith*

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**Carol Yow** - August 27, 2022 at 08:32 PM

MF

*What a lovely tribute to a truly lovely lady. Pat was a good friend and she may be gone but will never be forgotten.*

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**Mollie Franklin** - August 28, 2022 at 09:14 AM

CW

*To the family and friends of Pat Harr, my husband Sterlyn Washburn and I were very sorry to hear of her death! We thought highly of her and admired her strength and intelligence, her quick wit and her ever present smile even through what must have been a painful illness. Sterlyn worked with Pat in the local school system when he was the School Finance Officer and she was in the Exceptional Children's Program and he always said she did an excellent job in anything she undertook. She never failed to be kind and friendly to us. We continued to keep up with news about Pat and Bob through mutual close friends, Larry and Shirley Ramsey and we also extend our deep sympathy to them in this loss. Charlotte Washburn*

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**Charlotte Washburn** - August 28, 2022 at 11:00 PM

PH

*To Pat's family and friends:*

*I was privileged to know Pat for more than fifty-five years when she began her teaching career in McDowell County, NC. We both taught at the same school and shared a ride to school at times. She was so kind and helpful with my young son as we rode about ten miles. I'll never forget the dentyne chewing gum she would give him to help keep him quiet! Pat was a wonderful teacher and had such a keen interest in all her students. Later on we shared a group of friends who had many, many good times camping on the Blue Ridge Parkway. She was always the "can do" person in the group who came up with many mouth watering meals. Pat was a person who always put the other person first. Her church was very important in her life and her Christian values will always be remembered.*

*The loss of Pat leaves a large void in our lives. She may have left this earth, going with a positive attitude, but she will forever remain in our hearts. Rest in peace, my dear friend. Sincerest sympathy to all her family and friends*

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**Patty Hollifield** - September 03, 2022 at 12:19 PM

JS

“ TO THE FAMILY OF MARGARET ( PAT) HARR:

*JUST WANTED TO SEND YOU ALL THIS SHRT NOTE TO LET YOU ALL KNOW THAT YOU ARE ALWAYS IN MY THOUGHTS & IN MY PRAYERS EVERY DAY & ESPECIALLY DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME. MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL ALWAYS & KEEP YOU ALL IN HIS LOVING CARE. I ALSO WANTED TO LET YOU ALL KNOW THAT I HAVE KNOWN PAT HARR FOR MANY YEARS AS SHE WAS A MEMBER OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ASHEVILLE ( WHERE I AM A MEMBER OF ). PAT WAS A WONDERFUL CHRISTIAN PERSON & A WONDERFUL CHRISTIAN FRIEND. SHE WAS VERY ACTIVE AT THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ASHEVILLE ( ESPECIALLY IN THE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN ( NIGHT CIRCLE )( 6). PAT WILL BE GREATLY MISSED BY EVERYONE THAT HAVE KNOWN HER.. SHE HAS BEEN RECEIVED INTO THE BLESSED ARMS OF HER LORD & SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST & THAT SHE HAS RECEIVED A NEW BODY & THAT SHE IS NO LONGER IN PAIN FROM ALS.*

*LOVE IN CHRIST,*

*JEAN SHEAROUSE  
MEMBER OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF  
ASHEVILLE*

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**JEAN SHEAROUSE** - August 27, 2022 at 03:51 PM

MM

*My thoughts and prayers pour out for all of Pat's family for your loss. Thank you for being there for Pat in her final weeks. She was the most sincere, caring, and compassionate person I have ever known... truly a beautiful friend. May we all rejoice in knowing that Pat is living in her eternal home through the grace and saving mercy of our Lord and Savior, Jesus, the Christ.*

*Mary Raine Moore  
First Presbyterian Church  
Asheville, NC*

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**Mary Raine S. Moore** - September 08, 2022 at 02:50 AM

JG

*As Pat's friends and neighbors from ViewPointe here in Asheville, we remember her with fondness and admiration for her generosity, her indomitable spirit and her unwavering willingness to roll up her sleeves and get to work to help others. We send our appreciation and best wishes to her family, of whom she spoke often with pride and joy.*

*Joe and Judi Goldenberg  
Asheville, NC*

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**Judi Goldenberg** - October 17, 2022 at 02:11 PM