



## Pat Heffren

January 25, 1943 - November 19, 2022

Pat Heffren, known to her friends and family as Pat, Patty Ann, Ma and Grandma, passed away at OSF Richard Owens Hospice Home in Peoria, Illinois on November, 19, 2022. Mom beat cancer 3 times and while she didn't beat it this time, she out ran it with dignity, grace and a warrior spirit.

Patricia Ann Hopkins was born at St. Francis Hospital in Peoria, Illinois on January 25th, 1943 to James Dale and Edith Mae (Schiabbe) Hopkins. She was preceded in death by her parents and her sister Nadine Mayberry.

Pat is survived by her four children, Tom (Janet) Higgins of Peoria, Kelly (Mike) Poster of Davenport, Iowa, Christy (John) Getz of Morton, Mike (Julie) Higgins of Peoria and 9 grandchildren, Caitlin Poster, Ryne Higgins, Jake Poster, Shea Higgins, Sean Higgins, Bridget Poster, Kieran Higgins, Maeve Higgins and Maggie Getz. She also leaves behind nieces and nephews, Monica, Danny, Stacey and Suzie, many great-nieces and nephews as well as her dear cousins Bobette James, Bonnie Nelson, James Buchanan, Margie Williams, Frank Landers and Stephen Quidd and all of their children and grandchildren.

Pat worked multiple jobs to support her family before settling into a career with Ruppman Marketing in Peoria. At Ruppman she and her co-workers provided customer service and technical support on everything from breakfast cereal to

home appliances and electronic devices. It was during these years that she developed a network of Ruppman “cronies”. We would like to thank the cronies and the Ruppman family. Mom survived two serious battles with breast cancer while employed at Ruppman and she couldn’t have done this without all of the moral and other support you all provided during those times.

Pat was also very blessed to form a close knit group of friends during her youth. These friends were so tight knit that they became “Aunts” to one another’s children and the children entered adulthood with a large group of friends we fondly refer to as our “fake cousins”. That family theme continued to Pat’s crew of friends from her child raising years on the East Bluff. These ladies and their children also became family. Carmen Menchaca and Mary Miller and their children also became family.

Since 2019, Pat has been a member of the community at B’nai B’rith senior apartments. She appreciated all of her friends, neighbors and staff at B’nai B’rith. Her family is especially appreciative of Lisa, Mike and Crystal.

Pat enjoyed socializing, spending time with, loving on, and having lots of laughs and adventures with all of these people wherever and whenever possible. She did this right up to and into her early days in hospice.

Our family would like to thank the staff at OSF St. Francis Emergency and Short Stay Units and especially the angel caregivers at the OSF Richard Owens Hospice House. You made an unbearable circumstance bearable. You provided care and comfort to our mother and our large group of family and friends. We are forever grateful.

Memorials may be made to either the Susan Komen Foundation or the Richard Owens Hospice House.

A celebration of life will be scheduled in the near future. Until that time, and

until you see Pat again, she wants you to know that it's not "goodbye", it's  
Peace Out!

Schmidt-Haller Burial and Cremation Services are entrusted with  
arrangements. Online condolences may be made at [www.schmidthaller.com](http://www.schmidthaller.com)

# Tribute Wall

DU

“ *Pat was a grade school classmate and always a happy person. Please let us know when the Celebration of Life will be held.*  
*Dave Urbanc, Bill Clark, Roger Campbell*

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**Dave Urbanc** - December 12, 2022 at 01:15 PM

BP

“ *My last post I focused on my loss and I apologize. I lost my parents at 60 and we had 6 to 8 months to prepare. I am so sorry for your loss. You have barely had time to breathe. Pat had amazing support from her entire family and now you can breathe and begin to absorb what has happened. It will be a long journey and you will each complete it in your own time. I know how much you loved her and, again, that you will be there for each other. Everyone is praying for you.*

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**Barbara Pratt** - November 27, 2022 at 05:58 PM

BP

“ *Pat and I had a long history together. I went to grade school with her sister, Nadine. It feels like I have known her forever. We went the same high school although 6 years apart. Ended up working for the same company and in our later years living in the same building. COVID kept us apart for nearly 2 years but in the last year, with Lisa, we had dinners and fun nights together I loved her laugh. She is the last person in my life to call me Babs and I miss her terribly. I was privileged to have been her friend and I love her.*

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**Barbara Pratt** - November 26, 2022 at 12:44 AM

IF

“ Illinois Central College Faculty Forum purchased the Rose Remembrance for the family of Pat Heffren.



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**Illinois Central College Faculty Forum** - November 23, 2022 at 11:15 AM

SH

“ Stacey Hawley lit a candle in memory of Pat Heffren



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**Stacey Hawley** - November 22, 2022 at 09:35 AM

JP

“ To all the Higgins, we send our deepest sympathy. Mike, your mom was such a kind and sweet lady who supported you all with love . I never heard her say anything but nice things about people. We wish you all special memories. Sincerely, Joanie and Ed Papis

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**Joan papis** - November 20, 2022 at 04:33 PM

RT

“ Pat and I worked together many years at Ruppman. Then we went to aerobics every Monday for several years. She was a great friend. I always enjoyed being with her. She will be missed. Loved her sense of humor, she loved her family and friends. Thanks for being my friend Pat.



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**Rita Taylor** - November 20, 2022 at 02:22 PM

MO

“ I didn't have the pleasure of knowing Pat personally but as part of the Ohlemiller family I heard from my mother Jerri what a great and courageous person she was. She had a hard life but lived it with grace and humor. Based on her work on earth, I have no doubt she is soaring with the angels. Love to all! Sincerely, Marcia Ohlemiller

Marcia Ohlemiller - November 20, 2022 at 01:20 PM

ML

“ Pat always was there for you. I'm so blessed to know her & had so many good times & be part of the Ruppman cronies. Love ya Pat & will always have a special place in my heart for you. Prayers to the family. Margaret & Jerry Leathers—



Margaret Leathers - November 20, 2022 at 11:12 AM

RP

“ Pat was one in a million! I have great memories of her from my Ruppman days! Soar high, Pat!

Rita Poglioli - November 20, 2022 at 10:48 AM

CH

“ Christi lit a candle in memory of Pat Heffren



christi - November 20, 2022 at 10:12 AM

CH

*Pat was the best trainer. She loved Ruppman and they loved her. She truly loved everyone. To know her was to love her. No one could be compared to her. We all felt loved by her. My deepest sympathy to her family. She shared many stories of her love for her children. We all felt like we knew them. She worked while taking chemo and she was so sick. She kept going. Amazingly strong woman.*

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**christi** - November 20, 2022 at 10:18 AM

JR

“ *Condolences to everyone on moving on, but nothing but happy memories of a life well lived!*

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**Jim Runkle** - November 20, 2022 at 12:31 AM

JM

“ *Pat was our next door neighbor at B'nai Brith and we became very close. Pat was the sweetest person and the BEST. Till we meet again My friend. Fly with Jesus. God Bless!*

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**Jim and Nancy Mustard** - November 19, 2022 at 06:48 PM