



Pat Schwarm

March 14, 1945 - December 12, 2014

Pat Schwarm, 69, Highland, Illinois, passed away on December 12, 2014 at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville, Illinois.

Services celebrating Pat's life will be held at 10:00 AM, Tuesday, December 16 at the First Congregational Church of Highland, 801 Washington Street, Highland, with Pastor Greg Brady officiating. A graveside service and burial will follow at 12:15 PM at the Old Loogootee Cemetery in rural Loogootee. Visitations are set for Monday, December 15, 3:00 – 8:00 PM at Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home, 1501 Ninth at Lemon Street, Highland, and 9:00 – 10:00 AM at the church prior to the funeral service.

The daughter of the late Stanley E. and Edith Donaldson Schwarm, Pat was born on March 14, 1945 in St. Elmo, Illinois.

She was a 1963 graduate of Brownstown High School. She graduated in 1968 from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale with a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics education and instructional materials and in 1976 from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville with a Master's of Science Degree in education administration. In addition, Pat completed post-graduate classes in gifted education, special education and writing instruction.

Pat began her 33-year professional career with the Highland Community

Schools in 1968 as a math teacher and librarian at Highland Junior High School. In 1977, she became Assistant Principal at Highland Upper Elementary School and Highland Junior High School. From 1984 until her retirement in 2001, Pat was the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. During her tenure with the district, Pat was involved in numerous initiatives which enhanced the quality of education. She was viewed as a leader and pioneer in education by her peers not only in Highland but throughout the area. She was chair of Madison County Region II Special Education Cooperative, 1994-2001 after having served as vice-chair from 1984-1994. She was president of Southwestern Illinois ASCD, 1987-1988. She was also a much sought after professional development presenter during her career and for several years after her retirement.

Her contributions to education and her community were recognized and she was the recipient of many honors during her career including Highland Jaycees' Outstanding Young Educator, 1975; Illinois' "Those Who Excel Award of Excellence/Administration," 1994; and Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow, 2001.

Pat grew up on her family's farm in rural Loogootee. As a youth, she was involved in 4-H and was known as a "champion cake baker" winning many prizes at county and state fairs. Her love of cooking and entertaining continued throughout her life as she was a gracious hostess and exceptional cook. On the farm, Pat was involved in the family's enterprise of raising and showing purebred Angus cattle. Pat showed cattle in county fairs throughout southern Illinois as a youth and was a cattle owner until recent years. She seldom missed a "show day" during which her nephews were showing cattle, bringing lunch to the fair grounds for the family. Her county fair involvement also included serving on the Madison County Fair Board from 1978-1984.

Pat's interests and talents were many. She also enjoyed photography,

scrapbooking, home decorating and sewing.

A faithful Christian, Pat was a member of Zion Lutheran Church, Loogootee, 1945-2004, and First Congregational Church of Highland, 2004-present. She was involved in youth ministries and was a women's Bible study leader and hostess.

Pat was preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her brother, S. Gene Schwarm and his wife, Ann, Loogootee; sister, Judith Seibert and husband, David, Washington, Illinois; nephews, Andrew Schwarm and his wife, Monica, Chicago; Alex and his wife, Samantha, Weehawken, NJ; nieces, Julie Seibert, Ballwin, Missouri; Linda Seibert Vig and her husband, Varun, New York City; Kristi Seibert, Chicago; and one great-nephew, Nikhil Oliver Vig, New York City.

Memorials can be made in Pat's honor to Highland Area Community Foundation, Patsy Schwarm Education Fund and Old Loogootee Cemetery.

Tribute Wall

BL

“ *My heart is breaking as I read the obituary of this wonderful person. I met Patsy as a freshman at SIU and we have never lost touch since 1963. Her yearly holiday cards and letters were always welcome and I am so happy to say that I got to visit with Patsy when she was in NJ for Alex's wedding.*

As a "city girl" from New Jersey going off to college in Illinois, Patsy actually taught me how to properly make a bed and took me home to the farm over Thanksgiving. I will never forget those huge and beautiful animals and the generous hospitality of her family. It is a memory I will always treasure.

This is such a huge loss to her family and friends because she gave so much of herself to all of us. I am so sorry.

Barbara Taikeff Lehrman

Barbara Lehrman - December 19, 2014 at 11:59 AM

CM

“ *Super super lady, one of my favorite teachers ever, great person!*

craig marti - December 15, 2014 at 05:01 PM

DZ

“ *Ann & Gene - I was so saddened to hear of the loss of Gene's sister. She was truly an inspiration to many and has passed on a very special part of herself that lies within those she taught. It is evident God held her close throughout her lifetime. Please find comfort in knowing your family is in my thoughts and prayers.*
Donna Z.

Donna Zerrusen - December 15, 2014 at 09:40 AM

MM

“ Pat touched the lives of many students and teachers during her amazing career. She always had a smile and was willing to try anything to better the education of the children in the Highland School District. She was one of a kind.

Marsha Moore - December 15, 2014 at 01:35 AM

DR

“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



David Rosen - December 15, 2014 at 12:17 AM

DR

“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



David Rosen - December 15, 2014 at 12:02 AM

CA

“ Pat's first year at Highland Jr High as a math teacher, what a caring and great teacher she was, her smile was contagious, always had one. You have touched many Pat. May God Bless you and your family.



Carolyn - December 14, 2014 at 11:52 PM



“ *Let It Snow was purchased for the family of Pat Schwarm.*



December 14, 2014 at 10:26 PM



“ *So sorry for the loss of this lovely educator. She is one I always think of as I remember about those that led me to the teaching profession myself.*



Kristina Kuhl - December 14, 2014 at 08:36 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Pat Schwarm.*



December 14, 2014 at 08:07 PM



“ *Remembering good times when Pat and I taught together in what was then Highland Jr. High. Pat touched so many lives for the good. I feel grateful that I had the opportunity to know her as both a colleague and a friend.
Let your memories of Pat's life provide you with the comfort you need during this time. Let's celebrate the life of a good woman, Pat.
-Jody Harrison*

Jody Harrison - December 14, 2014 at 07:53 PM

DM

“ I will miss Pat-she was an inspiration to so many! Never did I hear her complain about her illness & situation. She always spoke in a positive manner, especially with problem solving. She was such a wonderful role model in living out life with a "can" attitude, despite her limited mobility. She was the willing hostess of many a women's bible study, allowing us to come & meet in her home. She also helped out with the planning & was treasurer of our Fusion Youth group at FCC. She will be sadly missed, but at the same time am happy that she will get to see Jesus for Christmas 😊. My prayers go out to Sharon & all her family members-God be with you all-
Love, Debbie McNeilly

Debbie McNeilly - December 14, 2014 at 01:39 PM

DR

“ To the Schwarm Family and Sharon Rinderer and all of the many people whose lives Patsy impacted, like mine.

First I am sorry for your loss. I was saddened and troubled when I heard the news. So many thoughts went through my mind.

Second, Patsy was one of the most amazing people who touched my life and those of my children and family as well. My mom and dad, before they passed away would always ask how Ms. Schwarm was doing. She earned this highest spot in my heart and mind when she helped me, in 7th grade, return to programmed math after being out sick for many weeks. It was hard, but she gave me the right amount of butt kicking and guidance along with some freshly baked chocolate chip cookies. :-).

Many of us used to hang out with Patsy and Sharon at their apartment in Highland and then their home. My friends and I would hang there for hours after school, before it became politically out of base.

Our conversations throughout the years, updating each other on what was happening, felt like I never left home nor was too far from our friendship. And Patsy's importance in my life was demonstrated when she was invited and came to my wedding in Chicago. (Many Moons ago), before I moved to New Jersey.

When I heard from a friend (Thanks Marie), I even remembered Patsy's house telephone in Highland. I can barely remember the name of people I just met, but her number came right to mind... after 32 years being gone from Highland.

I will miss Patsy, but will say hello every once in a while. I know she is in a better place and is baking cookies for other people. :-).

If I can do anything to help, please let me know. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Regards,

David A. Rosen Highland HS Class of 1978

David A. Rosen - December 14, 2014 at 01:00 PM

PL

“ *Having Pat as a friend, and working with with her on many committees she was always a dynamic person who was very intelligent and so much fun to be with. She always had a giving heart and did what she could for anyone. She often spoke of her nieces and nephew and was so proud of her family. She will be truly missed by each and everyone of us that she came into our lives, but will not ever be forgotten. God Bless her, the family and especially Sharon who will miss her a great deal.*

Pam Ulrich Lecerf

Pam Ulrich Lecerf - December 14, 2014 at 12:50 PM