



Margaret Patricia (Pat) Simmons

December 19, 2017

Margaret Patricia (Pat) Simmons of Sailfish Point, Stuart, FL and Plandome Manor, NY died Tuesday, December 19th, 2017 after a long illness at Moravian Manor in Lititz, PA. She was 88 years of age. She is a beloved mother, grandmother and great grandmother who lived a full and wonderful life.

Patty Casey, as she was known as a child, was born in 1929 to her parents Frank F. Casey and Marie K. Casey. She graduated from Manhasset High School in June of 1946. As a child she rode horses, sailed, was an accomplished ice skater and loved her dance lessons.

Her professional career began as a ballerina. It continued as a choreographer and culminated in her directing the Dance Department of the New York School of the Performing Arts. She studied ballet and dance with: Alexandra Fedorova Ballet School, American School of Ballet, Beaux Arts School and with Martha Graham. One of her Russian dance instructors could not pronounce "Patty" and instead called her "Potsy", a nickname which stuck for the rest of her life with her family and close friends. She attended Sarah Lawrence College from 1946-48 but left to pursue her career as a ballerina. She danced with the Metropolitan Opera Company's Ballet de Corps during their 1949 and 1950 seasons. Additionally she danced with the Alexandra Fedorova Company in 1949-1951. She performed one season with the Ballet

Russe de Monte Carlo in 1948. She also performed with the Paper Mill Playhouse in 1949 and made television commercials in 1951.

In 1951 she began teaching at the New School of the Performing Arts in New York City (think of the movie Fame) and continued there until 1955 chairing its dance department.

She married Richard (Dick) Sheridan Simmons on June 30, 1955 and accompanied him to Germany where he served with the U.S. Army for two years. Upon returning to the states, her husband joined the law firm of Cravath Swaine and Moore, first as an associate, then partner, and finally as co-presiding partner. Dick left Cravath to become Vice Chairman of the board of Chemical Bank. Throughout this time she traveled extensively with her husband and son creating a lifelong love of travel and a desire to see new places. She was especially fond of Istanbul, Turkey.

Their son, William (Bill) Richard Simmons was born on August 12, 1960. From that point, until Bill went off to boarding school, she was a stay-at-home mom. Her family was, without a doubt, her first priority.

Pat volunteered for many years with the New York Legal Aid Society and chaired the Legal Aid Society Annual Ball in 1978 and 1979 as well as their Tennis for Everyone event at Forrest Hills Tennis Center. She was also a deacon for many years at the Community Reformed Church in Manhasset.

She had a deep love of golden retrievers and had many in her lifetime. One of her dogs that she bred, Clarie, won Best of Opposite Sex at the 1969 Westminster Dog Show.

With the untimely death of Dick in 1991, she began to spend more and more time in Florida. There, she took up the game of golf, cultivated a new group of

friends and became very active with local philanthropic organizations. These included the Lyric Theatre, The Ovation Concert Series at the Lyric Theatre, the Barstow Reed Society and The Blake Memorial Library. She continued to travel extensively, go to the Metropolitan Opera whenever she could and spend time with her family.

She is survived by her son, William (husband of Deidre Simmons) of Lancaster, PA and her three granddaughters, Caitlin Findlay (wife of Brian Findlay) of Richmond VA; and twins; Abigail and Samantha Simmons of Lancaster, PA. She has two great-grandchildren; Case and Claire Findlay of Richmond, VA.

A Memorial Service will be held on Wednesday, December 27, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at The Groffs Family Funeral & Cremation Services, 528 W. Orange Street (corner of W. Orange & Pine Sts.) Lancaster, PA. The family will receive friends from 9:00 a.m. until the time of service. Interment will be private at Nassau Knowles in Port Washington, NY, where Dick and her parents are buried. Memorial events in her honor will be held in NYC and Sailfish Point in January or February of 2018.

In lieu of flowers, please send contributions to the ASPCA or your local animal shelter or humane league.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 27. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc
528 W Orange St.
Lancaster, PA 17603
(717) 394-5300
admin@thegroffs.com
<https://thegroffs.com/>

Memorial Service

DEC 27. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ *The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Margaret Patricia (Pat) Simmons*



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - December 22, 2017 at 11:50 AM



“ *Margaret Patricia (Pat) Simmons*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *I was saddened to read Pat's obituary in the Manhasset Press. She was a golfing friend of my Mother-In-Law's at North Hempstead Country Club. They had many dinners there together with their friend another Pat S. Always a pleasure to see and talk with her. Her locker was near mine. I had been missing her and wondering where she was.
May cherished memories bring you comfort. A beautiful woman....
Jacqueline O'Connor*

Jacqueline O'Connor - January 05, 2018 at 06:38 PM

KC

“ *Bill and Deidre,
Sending love and remembering your Mom's grace and wit. She lead
a life of adventure and shared it with all of you. Keep your family
and memories close. With much love,
Kathleen Collins and Andrew Elston*

Kathleen Collins - December 27, 2017 at 10:53 AM

MM

“ *Please accept my sympathy, Bill and Deidre. What an exceptional
woman your mother was, Bill. Take comfort in what must be
wonderful memories.*

Marge McCarthy

Marge McCarthy - December 23, 2017 at 11:13 AM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family
of Margaret Patricia (Pat) Simmons.*



December 22, 2017 at 11:21 PM

MH

“ *Dear Bill and Deidre:
We are so sorry to hear about you Mother. I know that over the
years my father and Mother where good friends with both your
parents. Over the years we had many wonderful meals with her.
With much Love Miriam and Mary Hunt*

m

Mary Hunt - December 22, 2017 at 04:41 PM



“ 94 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - December 22, 2017 at 10:43 AM

AS

“ *Dear Bill, Diedre and family,*

We are sitting in the Philadelphia airport waiting for a flight to San Francisco and just read the absolutely, staggeringly beautiful obituary for Bill's mother. Richard and I both send our thoughts and sympathy, especially at holiday time.

I remember meeting her once, and realizing immediately that she was someone who had had A Life! After reading the account, I see that I had no idea. I think I may also remember a funny story about how Bill got to F&M--was it that his mom drove on past Haverford and once they arrived in Lancaster just decided to check out F&M?

*Much love to all of you, and we hope to see you in the New Year.
Fondly,
Ann*

Ann Steiner - December 22, 2017 at 09:52 AM