



Patricia Anne Schmechel

March 23, 1930 - March 23, 2019

Patricia Anne Schmechel died on her 89th birthday in Butte, Montana, where she was born. Patsy to her family and friends, she was born at home on March 23, 1930 in the early months of the Great Depression to first generation Irish Americans, Patrick F. and Helen A. (Shea) O'Connor, and raised in a three-room shotgun duplex on South Dakota Street with her brother William (Oakie) and sister Marlene.

A precocious learner and excellent student, Patsy was taught to read as a young child by her father while he was on furlough from his job as a mine timekeeper with The Anaconda Company. She graduated from Saint Joseph's Catholic Grade School and Butte Girls Central Catholic High School. Patsy received a Bachelor's of Science degree in Chemistry from Montana State University (then Montana State College) and worked with the US Atomic Energy Commission in Oak Ridge, Tennessee and Idaho Falls, Idaho.

She married Warren P. (Paul) Schmechel in December 1952. Together they had seven children, born in cities across Montana as their lives unfolded with his Montana Power Company career, beginning as a Junior Engineer in Billings and culminating as Board Chair and CEO in Butte, with stops in Lewistown, Mill Town, Missoula, and Cut Bank in between. In all these places they made many lifelong friendships, but Patsy, a Butte girl through and through, was happiest living and raising her family in her hometown. Together she and Paul enjoyed 42 years of marriage before Paul's death in January 1994.

Her family and her community were her life's work. Always encouraging and sometimes correcting, Patsy was a loving and dedicated daughter, sister, niece, wife, mother, grandmother, aunt, and friend. A true child of the Great Depression, Patsy was a lifelong saver, recycler, and re-user, believing in the virtue of sustainability long before there was a term for it. She was a committed Catholic who believed that all the gifts she received in life, and she knew she enjoyed many, were received by the grace of God and brought on by faithfulness and hard work. Patsy was a long-standing parishioner of the Immaculate Conception Church in Butte and a tireless volunteer, teaching Catholic religious education to schoolchildren, serving on the parish council, and conducting the church choir. She was also an active community volunteer, serving as a long-time Multiple Sclerosis Society board member, fund raising for the Butte YMCA, and generously supporting many community projects.

A woman of great dignity and purpose, Patsy was also a woman who enjoyed a good laugh. She retained a sense of humor about herself even as her health declined. Above all, Patsy was a great mother to her seven children and either forgot or forgave their flaws (and there are a few). In her words, she “loved them to pieces,” and she was well loved in return.

Patsy was preceded in death by her parents, Patrick and Helen, brother Oakie and his wife, Patsy’s dear friend Eileen, sister Marlene, and beloved husband Paul. She is survived by her children Marjorie (John Strader), Jim, Joan (Sandy Ferraro), Mike (Chris), Dan (Mimi Wright), Bill (Cindy Bergum), and Steve, by her grandchildren Rachel and Christina Ferraro, Sydney Strader, and Matt (Angie), Joe (Sarah), Tyler (Jill), Kathryn, Quincy, and Miya Schmechel, and great grandson Adrian Ferraro, by her brothers-in-law Laurence Dunville and Mike Schmechel (Mary Lou), and by her Schmechel, O’Connor, Dunville, Hertel, and Hawthorne nieces and nephews. She is also survived by her dear, lifelong friends Jeanne Hanley and Marie Kadillak, who are also Butte girls through and through.

Patsy’s family will receive friends Saturday, March 30th beginning at 10 o’clock in St. Patrick’s Catholic Church where Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11 o’clock. A reception following at the Finlen Hotel. In lieu of flowers, Patsy’s family asks that donations in her memory be made to Butte Central Catholic Schools or to the W. Paul Schmechel Engineering Scholarship at Montana State University. Her family would like to thank the many people who were so kind to Patsy in her later years, including Pat Foley, Rosalie Butorovich, the residents and staff at The Springs, and the staff at Saint James Healthcare in Butte.

Events

MAR **Visitation** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

30

St. Patrick's Catholic Church
corner of Mercury and Washington, Butte, MT, US, 59701

MAR **Service** 11:00AM

30

St. Patrick's Catholic Church
corner of Mercury and Washington, Butte, MT, US, 59701

Comments



“ Marge, Joan and Family. So sorry to hear about your mom's passing. We remember not only when we were in high school, but visiting with her and Paul after mass when they were in Bozeman. She was always a class act. We are thinking of you all and keeping you in our prayers.

God Bless,

Jim and Diane Cashell, Bozeman

Jim Cashell - March 30, 2019 at 07:08 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Patricia Anne Schmechel.



March 29, 2019 at 07:09 PM



“ Patricia Anne Schmechel is well remembered here at Carroll College. She and her family have always been supporters of our diocesan college in Helena. Her son Steve was a student here years ago. All their relations with our college are fondly remembered and lovingly appreciated. Today I offered Mass for Patricia Anne in the Borromeo Chapel here on campus. With kindest regards and in thanksgiving for the life of Patricia Anne, I send my prayerful best wishes. Sincerely, Msgr. Joseph D. Harrington

Joseph D. Harrington - March 28, 2019 at 01:56 PM



“ Teresa, Cindy, Joan, Jan, Kate, Stacy purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Patricia Anne Schmechel.





“ The most heart felt condolences of all the members of the extended Kelly family go out to Pat and her many children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, many of whom, particularly the children, I knew so well. Especially Dan of course. Currently represented by my Melissa Kelly Campbell and her husband Sean and daughter Lydia of Peachtree City, GA, and myself, Mitchell Kelly and my wife Lael Forbes and my many step-children, with Lael and I living in Greenwich, CT and working in New York NY. Tom and Billie Lou Kelly, as well as our also late Aunt Mary Agnes Kelly Brown, adored Pat and Bill Schmechel to no end, as did I. Every moment shared with them was a delight and a joy and smart and fun. Our thoughts are with the entire and extended Schmechel family. May peace be with you always.

With all of our love,

Mitchell Kelly & Lael Forbes
Melissa Kelly Campbell, Sean Campbell and Lydiia Campbell

Mitchell Kelly - March 27, 2019 at 10:23 AM



“ I meant Paul Schemchel of course. My apologies.

Mitchell Kelly - March 27, 2019 at 10:56 AM



“ Dear Schmechel Family,

Please accept my deepest sympathy at the passing of your sweet, sweet mom. She was one in a million. I pray your comforted by many memories, and the love of each other.

Sincerely,
Mary Buckley Dolezal

Mary Buckley Dolezal - March 26, 2019 at 05:26 PM



“ Bill, Cindy and Steve,

I was deeply sadden to hear the loss of Patsy. I remember being in Butte to celebrate her 70th birthday - what a party that was! Know that she will live in your hearts forever. Take care now.

Teresa



“ Our family held Mrs. Schmechel, and indeed your whole family, in very high regard. Throughout the years, after I left Butte, it was often the case when I returned home that my mother would mention Pat and update me on the family. She was a remarkable woman and I am sure that she is now in the warm embrace of God and the Angels On High. My Father and I will not be able to attend services as we will be across the State on that day, but please know that our thoughts and prayers will be with your family as you mark the passing of your precious mother.

Julie Pascoe, Arthur Pascoe

Julie Pascoe - March 26, 2019 at 11:23 AM



“ My deepest sorrow to all the Schmechels for the loss of your dear Mother, Patsy. What a classy and deeply rich woman who was certainly a beautiful soul among the best of all women. Her brightness was truly inspiring and her kindness will never be forgotten.

My best to all, Saree Couture Billings, MT

Saree Couture - March 25, 2019 at 07:11 PM



“ Lillian and Billy purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Patricia Anne Schmechel.



Lillian and Billy - March 25, 2019 at 04:02 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Wayrynen-Richards Funeral Home - March 25, 2019 at 03:21 PM