

PATRICIA JEAN HOWELL LEWIS



Patricia Jean Howell Lewis, formerly of Sewickley, PA, passed away peacefully at Little Sisters of the Poor, Brighton Heights, PA, on January 19, 2024, at the age of 97 after a life well lived. Pat was born in Dallas, TX, on July 27, 1926, to Harry O. and Hannah McMonagle Howell. After the stock market crash of 1929, the family moved first to New York City where Pat attended first grade and then to Pittsburgh where

Hannah's extended McMonagle family lived. Pat grew up in Brentwood, PA, and graduated from Brentwood High School in 1944.

Pat wanted to attend college, but her family needed her to go to work to help support the family. She worked first as a secretary at Langhart, Daelhausen, and May Insurance Company, one of the few places that would hire someone not yet 18. From 1947 to 1960, at US Steel Irvin Works in the Industrial Engineering Department, Pat worked in graphic design, helping to create visuals and slides. In 1960, she transferred to US Steel Headquarters in downtown Pittsburgh to work in Organization Planning. It was there she met her future husband, Chandler George Lewis. They were married on November 4, 1961, and she moved to Sewickley, living at The Barracks, Orchard Terrace, for the next 54 years.

Pat was a homemaker and full-time mother to her two daughters, Leslie and Andrea. She also volunteered in the community. She was a member of the Sewickley Valley Hospital (Heritage Valley Sewickley) Auxiliary from 1962 until 2012 when it was dissolved. During this time, she served as Secretary and Treasurer of the Auxiliary, as well as Treasurer of the Hospitality Shop, the hospital's snack bar and gift shop. In her final years with the Auxiliary, she volunteered in the hospital's Finance Department. She also volunteered for many years at Sewickley Academy where her children attended school and later worked part-time as a Library Assistant in the Marion Hutchins Library at the Academy.

Pat was an amazing athlete, a quality her children did not realize until they saw how she could outplay all the other moms in the Memorial Day mother/daughter softball games at Sewickley Academy. A champion duckpin bowler, she was the top woman bowler at the Edgeworth Club for multiple years. Her true athletic passion, however, was golf. Pat played on women's golf leagues first at Montour Heights Golf Club and then Sewickley Heights Golf Club. She was Chairperson of Women's Golf at Sewickley Heights in 2006 and 2007 and statistician from 1990 to 2007. She was also a member of the Women's Golf Association of Western Pennsylvania from 1987 to 2010. In 2006, the ladies of the Women's Golf League at Sewickley Heights honored her with a Grande Dame tournament on her 80th birthday. Pat was fearsome and determined to stay active so she could keep playing golf as long as possible. She had four hip replacement surgeries, three on her right hip and one on her left, as well as a left knee replacement. Pat golfed until her mid-eighties, her final round a memorable nine holes with two close friends in 2010. When asked her secret to longevity, Pat was known to reply, "Golf, chocolate, and Manhattans. And not necessarily in that order."

Pat was also a passionate bridge player and ran a weekly ladies' bridge group from 2007 to 2014. This group was known for welcoming everyone who wanted to play, including those who were just learning as well as those who had been let go from more competitive groups when they began to have memory issues. Pat was known for her kindness, always sending cards to friends and family on their birthdays and at Christmas. She sent out her last Christmas cards just this past December.

Pat was an impeccable dresser, known around town for her signature French twist. At Little Sisters, she was a regular at their on-site beauty shop, and every day she would insist on wearing a suit or other well-coordinated outfit.

Pat was instrumental in the rearing of her grandsons, Michael and David, when they moved to Sewickley in 2003, tirelessly driving them to and from countless football, play, and band practices and attending their various games and performances. She was a very proud mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, eager to share about her descendants' milestones and accomplishments.

Pat loved her Irish heritage and was able to travel to Ireland several times with her husband, Chandler. She insisted on visiting Donegal, the ancestral home of the McMonagles. One of her joys was getting to play golf in Ireland on a trip with her daughter, Andrea. Pat truly loved Saint Patrick's Day, especially as her name was Patricia, and often proudly wore Kelly green. She did an impromptu Irish jig at her daughter Leslie's wedding and well into her late 80s could be coaxed to do a bit of a jig on Saint Patrick's Day.

After her husband passed away in 1998, Pat reconnected with her high school sweetheart, Fred "Fritz" Frey. They enjoyed each other's company for several years until Fritz passed away unexpectedly.

Pat was an avid reader and enjoyed Scrabble and crossword puzzles. She loved Hershey's chocolate and chocolate sundaes and while at Little Sisters was known to eat chocolate sundaes for dessert at both lunch and dinner. She was a die-hard Steelers fan and had her Terrible Towel by her side during the most recent Steelers - Bills playoff game. She also loved music, with Glenn Miller, Nat King Cole, and Johnny Mathis among her favorites.

In later years when she could no longer play bridge, Pat still enjoyed playing cards. She was a very skilled (and lucky) card player and consistently beat her daughters in lengthy Kings in the Corner tournaments. At Little Sisters, she also enjoyed Bingo (her favorite game), horse racing, word games, and any program with music. Pat loved old movies and was known for her binders, where she meticulously kept the names of movie stars and their movies and co-stars in her immaculate handwriting that was much admired by the nuns.

A devout Roman Catholic, Pat was a member of Saint James Church in Sewickley for 54 years before moving to Little Sisters, where she actively attended Mass. Pat lived life to its fullest in whatever ways she could up until the end. Just days before her passing, she was playing cards with her daughter - and winning!

She is survived by her daughters, Leslie (Michelle) and Andrea (Roger); stepson, Chandler (Cheryl); five grandchildren: Steve (Erin), Brian, Courtney (George), Michael, and David (Natalie); and seven great-grandchildren: Christopher, Colin, Makayla, Dylan, Peyton, Aurora, and Ezra. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Chandler; and her beloved sister, Marie Howell Hecht.

In lieu of sending flowers, please consider doing an act of kindness and finding joy in every day. The family is very appreciative of the amazing staff and nuns at Little Sisters who took such wonderful care of Pat, not just towards the end but each and every day she was there. Donations may be made in Pat's memory to Little Sisters of the Poor, 1028 Benton Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15212.

Visitation will be from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m., Thursday, January 25, 2024, in the **R.D. COPELAND FUNERAL HOME, LTD.**, Irvine Chapel, 702 Beaver St., Sewickley, PA 15143. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Friday at the chapel at Little Sisters of the Poor, Brighton Heights. Everyone please meet at the chapel. Interment will be in Sewickley Cemetery, next to her husband, Chandler.

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