

PATRICIA "PATSY" EFREMENKO

On Friday, November 22, 2024, Patricia "Patsy" Efremenko, 84, of Allison Park, PA, peacefully reunited with her best friend and one true love, Sergej, in Heaven.

Patricia was born in NYC in 1940 to Maurice and Fernande Smith. In youth, she played softball with the boys, and you'd best believe she held her own. While attending Jamaica High School in Queens, she made the paper because of her basketball skills. On trips to the Catskills, she rode horses. An ornery horse once took her unwillingly off a trail; she brought it back with ease. She told us stories of snorkeling and the dangers of coral, barracudas she watched with awe, and a bear that had her walking backwards to get away. The love bug bit on a blind date with Sergej; a wedding six months later (1959) kicked off the beginning of their lifetime together. You can't describe her life without underscoring the beauty and unwavering nature of their 63-year relationship; only ending when he preceded her in death. In a story of unconditional love, their relationship is the illustration. She was his "delicate little flower" (tongue in cheek) for whom he would "climb the highest mountain." Resilient, hard-working, and without money for college, she worked instead, rarely missing a day. A first-generation Belgian, her European work ethic was apparent and led her into the printing industry. She also held a second job delivering papers at 4 a.m. for 22 years to help support our family. Patricia was a resolute, strong woman who endured many difficult things, but quietly, so as not to worry those whom she loved. She was a committed supporter of her three daughters. A soft, loving grandmother, she found joy in spending time with her six granddaughters; watching them grow. She loved to participate (and compete), whether it be board games with family or a pickup game of badminton. She was an avid reader, a fabulous speller, and knew a little about everything, whether it be international relations or sports. Patricia's fortitude was unmatched, her will unshakable. She was a quiet, steadfast woman, content to stay in the background and observe until she had something to say. She taught her daughters that it was crucial to be independent and not rely on others. Although we no longer can see her, we know she is with us, cheering us on. She is survived by brother, Al (Maribeth) Smith; daughters, Kristin (Francis) Hochard, Cheryl (Keith) Zobel, and Tory Efremenko; granddaughters, Rachele (Gabe) Martin, Alyssa (Brian) Miller, Breanne (Evan) Connolly, Sawyer, Brogan, Charlie; and four great-grandchildren.

A private celebration of life will be held when the weather is warm, and the sun is shining. Afterward, she'll rest in the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies with Sergej. Arrangements made by the **BOCK FUNERAL HOME, LTD.**, Glenshaw.

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