



## Patricia S Wright

August 2, 1937 - July 24, 2023

Patricia S. Wright, 85, of Rensselaer, Indiana, passed away on July 24, 2023, at her daughter's home in Carmel, Indiana. She was born in Danville, Illinois on August 2, 1937, the daughter of Loran and Lura (Bodine) Smith.

She grew up in Covington, Indiana and graduated from Covington High School in 1955 where she was valedictorian, homecoming queen and an active member in the band and choral programs. Covington High is where her gift of music blossomed, but more importantly it's where she met the love of her life, Franklin D Wright, accepting a ride home from him after band practice and eventually marrying him on September 1, 1957. They spent 64 wonderful years together until Frank's death in 2021.

After high school, Pat danced professionally in Chicago and attended Northwestern University. But her heart was with Frank, so she transferred to Purdue University during her sophomore year after she and Frank got engaged. In 1959 she graduated with honors from Purdue's first class of education majors and, following in her mother's footsteps, began her career as an elementary education teacher. She returned to Purdue years later to earn her master's degree in education.

Pat's entire life was filled with music. She came from a musical family, took piano lessons from a very young age, gave piano lessons to numerous

aspiring pianists, including her three children, and directed choirs at every church she and Frank attended in Indiana, New York and Ohio. She was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Rensselaer for over 50 years -- that church is where she made her greatest musical impact. She directed the chancel choir, youth choirs and handbell choirs and played the piano for Sunday service until this past Spring when she became too ill to continue. She and Frank also played and sang for many weddings of family and friends over the years. She loved playing for Frank and, as her final tribute to him, played and recorded the piano music for his celebration of life service last summer.

A close second to her passion for music was her passion for education. She returned to teaching in 1978 and taught fifth and third grade at Monnett and Van Rensselaer Elementary Schools until she retired in 1997. During her illness she received many calls and notes of encouragement from her former students and teaching colleagues. She loved seeing her students excel and kept in contact with many of them after they graduated and started their own careers.

But above all things, family came first for Pat. She was a devoted wife and daughter, an exemplary and loving mother to her three children and their partners, and a doting grandmother to her eight grandchildren (who lovingly called her "Nana"). She never missed an opportunity to offer a kind and encouraging word, and always made sure her family knew how important they were to her. Her smile radiated happiness whenever she saw her grandchildren, especially when they visited her during the last weeks of her life.

Pat is survived by her children, Michael (Jim Hundrieser) of Saugatuck, Michigan, Scott (Sharron) of Carmel, Indiana, and Juliann (Fidel) Mercado of Carmel Indiana, eight grandchildren, sister-in-law Sharon Wright of State Line City, Indiana, and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews. She was preceded

in death by her parents and her husband Frank.

Friends and family are invited to pay their respects at Jackson Funeral Chapel in Rensselaer on Friday, August 11 from 4pm to 8pm CT. A funeral service will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church in Rensselaer at 12pm CT on Saturday, August 12. A private burial will take place at a later date.

In lieu of flowers Pat requested that donations be made to the Care for Kids fund at Trinity United Methodist Church in Rensselaer.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 11. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Jackson Funeral Chapel of Rensselaer  
250 N. McKinley Avenue  
P.O. Box 70  
Rensselaer, IN 47978  
(219) 866-5123  
info@jacksonfuneral.com  
<https://www.jacksonfuneral.com>

## Funeral

AUG 12. 12:00 PM (CT)

Trinity United Methodist Church  
107 E. Angelica Street  
Rensselaer, IN

# Tribute Wall

JK

“ I’m Judy Koebcke and worked with your Mom at both schools. She was great to work with and a good teacher. You have my sympathy and prayers.



judy and larry koebcke - August 11, 2023 at 04:48 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Patricia S Wright.



August 10, 2023 at 03:56 PM

AF

“ and Lynda and Families. purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Patricia S Wright.



and Lynda and Families. - August 10, 2023 at 10:55 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Patricia S Wright.



August 10, 2023 at 09:19 AM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Patricia S Wright.



August 03, 2023 at 02:46 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Patricia S Wright.

August 03, 2023 at 02:46 PM



“ Being involved in a couple of Pats choirs, growing up at the Methodist Church in Rensselaer are some of my fondest memories! You were very blessed to have all your happy memories from your parents



**Laura Stath Price** - July 31, 2023 at 06:13 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Patricia S Wright.



July 31, 2023 at 08:21 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Patricia S Wright.

July 31, 2023 at 08:21 AM



“ Diane Fish lit a candle in memory of Patricia S Wright



Diane Fish - July 30, 2023 at 12:34 PM



“ So sorry about your Mom's passing. I worked with her at school an we had a lot of fun times. Judy and Larry Koebcke



Larry and Judy Koebcke - July 30, 2023 at 12:12 AM



“ Sandra Culp lit a candle in memory of Patricia S Wright



Sandra Culp - July 29, 2023 at 12:37 AM

SC

*How we all shared the raising of our children, playing bridge, your teaching and your beautiful piano playing, all meant so much to all of us. Thanks for all your talent teaching "Chip" to play the piano and he still plays today.*

*How Frank tried to get you to play golf instead of reading a good book! LOL Sorry I missed you and Julie Monday when I came to visit briefly with you both Monday afternoon. I'm sure that was a very difficult trip to make.*

*Our prayers to all three children and great grand children. Your mom's presence will certainly be missed.*

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**Sandra Culp** - July 29, 2023 at 12:58 AM



“ *Pat was a wonderful woman, a gifted teacher, and a friend. My condolences to the family. Juli, special love to you. You were the best student teacher ever!*



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**Teresa Snyder Rishel** - July 28, 2023 at 11:45 PM

RN

“ *Rose Nesius lit a candle in memory of Patricia S Wright*



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**Rose Nesius** - July 28, 2023 at 02:09 PM

ML

“ *Martha Langley lit a candle in memory of Patricia S Wright*



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**Martha Langley** - July 28, 2023 at 10:40 AM

DE

“ *I so sorry for your families loss.*



Deb (Rose) Ellis - July 28, 2023 at 10:16 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Patricia S Wright.*



July 28, 2023 at 09:20 AM

RP

“ *Favorite memories are watching Pat directing the chancel choir, youth choirs, and bell choirs and hearing her play beautiful piano music for our services. I enjoyed teaching with her at both Monnett and Van. Our lives were so enriched for having known her. Pat was a good friend and will be greatly missed by many of us.*

Ruth Paulsen - July 27, 2023 at 10:02 PM

JB

“ *Judy Burvan lit a candle in memory of Patricia S Wright*



Judy Burvan - July 27, 2023 at 08:20 PM