



Patricia Burns

November 7, 2020

Burns, Patricia (nee Forrestal) of Teaneck, New Jersey, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her loving family on November 7, 2020. She was 92.

Daughter of the late Rose (nee O'Connor) and Raymond Forrestal. Dear wife of the late Joseph (2018). Devoted mother of eight children; Brian Burns, Liz Burns and her late husband Kalevi Hoite, Gerry Burns and husband Harvey Cavayero, Jeanne Burns Marino, Thomas Burns (deceased), Paul Burns and wife Lois, Edward Burns and wife Christine, Cornelia Geraghty and husband Ciaran and foster child, the late Juana Torres. Adored grandmother of Elizabeth, Andrew, Daniel, Maeve, Abigail, Brian, Patrick, Michael, Alex, Emma, Liam, Quinn, Cole, Catherine, Anna, and great granddaughter Mariel. Pat is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by brothers Raymond, Richard and John.

Born in New York City, Pat lived in Manhattan and the Bronx before moving to Bergen County, New Jersey in 1960.

Pat's marriage to Joe Burns in 1952 was the start of a long and full life of shared interests and causes, much joy, some sorrow and many children and friends!

Pat's experiences as a high school student at St. Walburga's Academy/School of the Holy Child in New York City greatly influenced her strong sense of social justice, while also nurturing her spirituality and devotion to the Catholic Church. She was a lifelong activist, and, well into her 90s, she participated in peaceful protests and demonstrations for various causes.

Pat enjoyed a long and successful career in education and, as a teacher, made a significant impact on the lives of countless students over many decades. She began teaching in New York City in the 1950s, followed by 25 wonderful years at E. Roy Bixby School in Bogota, New Jersey where she received numerous awards and commendations including Governor Kean's Excellence in Teaching Award, the Bergen County Teacher Fellowship Award for Outstanding Service to the Community, and Teacher of the Year in 1995. She was also the recipient of a letter of recognition from President Bill Clinton in 1996 for being an outstanding educator. Although she retired over 20 years ago, Pat was always the teacher, never missing an opportunity to share with a grandchild, child or friend an interesting and relevant lesson based on current events, American history, family history or the arts.

A lifelong love of the arts was instilled in young "Patsy" by her father, Raymond. This passion for theater, music and dance led to her introducing an award-winning annual program in Bogota Public Schools called "Week of the Arts" that recently celebrated its 30th year.

An avid reader and gifted writer, Pat belonged to a local writing group, and wrote many short stories, poems and quite a few impassioned letters to the editors of many regional and national newspapers.

Pat also enjoyed traveling, and visited many destinations in the United States and beyond, often in the company of family and close friends.

Of all of Pat's accomplishments, she will be most remembered as a dedicated and loyal wife to Joe, and a loving and caring mother, grandmother, great grandmother and friend. She will be missed but will always live in our hearts.

A lifelong optimist, Pat often quoted Eleanor Roosevelt's "It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness."

Due to COVID safety precautions, services will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the following charities that were important to Pat: (or a charity of your choice) Society of the Little Flower, www.littleflower.org; St. Christopher's Inn, www.stchristophersinn.org; Our New Journey, www.ournewjourney.org.

Tribute Wall

AL

“ I just found out of the passing of Mrs. Burns. She was my 2nd grade teacher. To this day, I have the fondest memories of her. She was one of the kindest teachers I ever had, and when I think of my favorite grade at Bixby, hands down, it was 2nd grade! Mrs. Burns was a great teacher, because she had that rare gift of knowing who the kids were who needed extra love, and some extra attention, and she gave it to them. She made every one of her students feel special. She was a teacher who loved all of her students. For me, at age 52, to feel such a loss, for a teacher who I had in 2nd grade, should really explain the impact that this woman made on me. She was truly that special.

Amanda M. Lurie - June 19, 2021 at 03:30 PM

MN

“ I remember Pat as a caring, sweet, helpful colleague.
Marie Niarhos

marie niarhos - November 13, 2020 at 03:05 PM

ED

“ I know this is my second post and I dont mean to clutter uShe readp this page but I just wanted to share a few memories. In Mrs Burns class we used to play bingo and the winner always got a chocolate pretzil. OH HOW I WANTED THAT PRETZIL ! One day when we were alone after school, Mrs Burns said " come here Erik" she took out a chocolate pretzil and gave it to me !! She made me not tell anyone ! She got me interested in the books JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH and WHERE THE SIDEWALK ENDS". Christmas time was special in her class, she played THE NUTCRACKER SUITE ALBUM and we had cookies and made christmas projects. Once I got hit by a car and when we played records she was worried because i was tapping my foot and she said OH ERIK BE CAREFUL ". LOL. I could go on, she was the best. She got me interested in the 1984 election between Regan and MOndale. She made history very interesting. WE had trips to Radio city to see Alice In Wonderland and to see CATS at Wintergarden theatre. In general, she was a very easy person to like.

Erik DiGenio - November 10, 2020 at 07:40 PM

ED

“ Erik DiGenio lit a candle in memory of Patricia Burns



Erik DiGenio - November 10, 2020 at 05:52 PM

ED

“ This one really hurts alot. I love you Mrs Burns and you loved me too. WE havent seen eachother in over 30 years but we had some great times together at Bixby. I still have the message you wrote me in my autograph book. I wish I had kept in touch with you. I will always love you, - Erik DiGenio

Erik DiGenio - November 10, 2020 at 05:38 PM

ND

“ My heartfelt condolences to the Burns family. I was most fortunate to have had Mrs. Burns as my 7th grade teacher. She instilled in me a deep appreciation for the arts and literature. Mrs. Burns would always encourage me to tap into my creative side, facilitating my interests in writing and drawing with great enthusiasm. She was an exceptional educator who cared deeply for her students. She prepared me very well for high school and beyond, and helped shape the person that I am today. I am forever grateful. Thank you Mrs Burns. You were, and always will be, an important part of my life.

Nikhil Desai - November 09, 2020 at 11:38 PM

DO

“ I had the honor of working with Pat at Bixby School when I was Principal. We both shared a love of the Arts which in turn created the Week of the Arts! Pat was a teacher of teachers ! She was highly respected and cared deeply not only for her students but for the profession she so loved! I once made a poor decision and Pat was quick to remind me of my teaching roots! I never forgot her honesty and commitment to the teaching profession. I am saddened to hear of her loss but honored to have had the privilege to work with a true educator! Dr. Robert Otnisky

Dr Robert Otnisky - November 09, 2020 at 06:38 PM

CS

Im so saddened to hear of her passing!! I remembered how Mrs. Burns took our class to see "Cats" at the Winter Garden Theater. She was always so kind and really loved her job.

Christina Spina - November 10, 2020 at 09:30 AM



“ *She was an angel to me. I was blessed to have known her and I shall continue to be blessed.*

Freddie Crescente - November 09, 2020 at 05:19 PM

GH

“ *My deepest sympathy in the loss of Mrs. Burns. She raised great children as I did not have the honor to meet all, but was fortunate to live next to Cornelius and her beautiful family! Our thoughts and prayers are with the Burns family. Warm regards The Huber family.*

gloria hubet - November 09, 2020 at 10:06 AM

TF

To the Burns family I was very fond of you mother she and I worked together and became very close friends she was fun and a wonderful mom wife and teacher I learned a lot from her . It was my pleasure to have known my friend Pat . I'm so very sorry you lost your mother . Thoughts are very much with all of her family .

toni franco - November 09, 2020 at 11:13 AM

AR

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Abigail Rochford - November 09, 2020 at 08:40 AM

FS

Beautiful tribute to your grandmother. I didn't know her but she must have been a very special person. Brought tears to my eyes. May she rest in the arms of our Lord. 🙏

Fran Sedotto - November 09, 2020 at 09:39 AM

JF

A beautiful lady and a wonderful friend. I will miss her greatly and my Thursday afternoons spent with her will be cherished always.
June Fitzgerald

June Fitzgerald - November 09, 2020 at 09:49 AM

VG

Your mother, grandmother, great grandmother and friend was such an amazing woman and I will cherish her kindness and thoughtfulness forever. I know she will be sorely missed and there are no words to make that easier but what a life well lived. And what a role model she was for all. My heartfelt condolences. Much love
Valerie Garten

valerie garten - November 09, 2020 at 02:53 PM

PL

What a special woman , and a beautiful tribute - deepest condolences on your loss - She surely lived a great life and has a legacy to carry on . God Bless Patricia - love, Lizzie's friend Tisha Licini and FAmily

patricia licini - November 09, 2020 at 04:39 PM

JG

My heartfelt condolences to my friend Lizzie and the entire Burns family. May your dear mother rest in heavenly peace with the angels.
Jane Grant

Jane Grant - November 09, 2020 at 07:23 PM


BF

Aunt Patsy was very giving and caring and we were blessed to be the recipients of her beautiful nature throughout our lives. Aunt Patsy will be cherished and missed by all of us.

Love, Ben and Family


Bernard Forrestal - November 09, 2020 at 07:32 PM

DF

She will always missed by us. She was a wonderful lady and always happy. We love you and you will always be remembered. Love you!
Dennis' family 

Dennis Forrestal - November 09, 2020 at 07:42 PM

MF

Aunt patsy will always hold a special place in my heart. Rest easy patsy.. you will be missed
 love , Margaret &family

Margaret Forrestal - November 09, 2020 at 07:59 PM

NH

What a beautiful and loving tribute for a remarkable woman and life. Wishing peace, comfort, and condolences to the entire family.



Nancy Healy - November 10, 2020 at 11:43 AM


TO

Reminiscing back to Bixby School 1972 I had the wonderful pleasure of meeting Pat. She was my one of my daughter's and son's teacher. We became life long friends. I will always hold the Burns family in a very special place in my heart. Pat, may the blessed mother hold you in the Palm of her hand.

Love, Tom and Anne O'Sullivan

Tom and Anne O'Sullivan - November 10, 2020 at 01:13 PM

CG

What a beautiful tribute to an amazing woman and her family. 

Carole Gittleman - November 11, 2020 at 10:19 AM

KF

My condolences to the Burns family, Aunt Patsy was the best of all. Loved forever and never forgotten

Ken&Diane Forrestal - November 11, 2020 at 08:25 PM



Beautiful kind person, humanitarian and teacher. Our love and simply to her family. EVERYONE loved Mrs. Burns.

Jane Langseder - November 13, 2020 at 07:14 PM