



Patricia Marie Kirkdoffer

December 14, 1920 - September 5, 2020

Patricia “Patti” Marie Cook Bird Kirkdoffer
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The world bid farewell to one of the truly great members of the Greatest Generation when, on the afternoon of Saturday, September 5th, 2020 Patricia Marie Cook Bird Kirkdoffer died, just three months shy of her 100th birthday.

Born on Tuesday, December 14, 1920 at 9 pm in Everett, Washington, Patti was the beloved daughter of Ralph Charles Cook and Grace Marie Smathers Cook. As she described it, “I was an only child – loved in every way.” Both parents hailed from large families, so Patti grew up in the constant company of uncles, aunts and close-knit cousins, all of whom she befriended and ultimately survived.

Patti attended Lincoln High School in Seattle, graduating in 1938, and honed her impressive secretarial skills at Seattle’s Metropolitan Business College. She met her future husband, Joe Bird, on a cruise on Lake Washington arranged by her parents to celebrate her 16th birthday. Though Joe attended as the date of a close friend, he and Patti were immediately drawn to one another, an attachment that lasted until Joe’s untimely death at the age of 47. After they married, Patti and Joe raised their two children, Susan “Susie,” and Tom, born on Mercer Island in Washington State. (Sadly, Susie died of cancer

in December of 2018, a loss that Patti described as almost unbearable.) A founding member of the Mercer Island Presbyterian Church, Patti's faith was grounded in her devotion to the concept of agape love: a universal, unconditional love that transcends and persists regardless of circumstances. To know Patti was not only to love her, but also to know you were loved by her. She shared her love for family and friends freely and often, and she never ended a phone call without reminding the person on the line just how special they were to her.

Widowed in 1966 with two teenaged children, Patti went to work as a secretary for the Evered Lincoln Mercury car dealership in Bellevue, Washington where she was quickly recognized for her ability to make everyone who crossed the threshold feel unique and valued. It was Patti's distinctively warm voice in the firm's radio ads that told listeners to have a great day!

After leaving Evered Lincoln Mercury, Patti went to work as a secretary for the Boeing Company. One day her young boss, Chuck Kirkdoffer asked her if she'd be willing to join him, his wife, Sharon, and his widowed father, Noah – visiting from Chicago – for dinner and the symphony. Patti agreed and, once again, a chance encounter led to a love match and marriage. Patti and Noah were married and enjoyed an extended honeymoon that ended a year later, when Noah died suddenly of a stroke, the same affliction that took Joe.

Once again a widow, Patti gratefully accepted her son Tom and daughter-in-law Barbee's gracious invitation to join them on their land in beautiful Lobster Valley, Oregon, where they built Patti a charming chalet a few hundred feet from their doorstep. Patti immediately made lifelong friends there and was visited regularly by family and acquaintances who found her home in Lobster Valley to be a haven of good fun, deep conversation and warm hospitality.

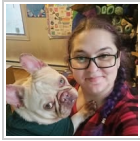
In 2013, Tom, Barbee and Patti relocated to Corvallis, Oregon, where once again Patti was blessed to live in her own delightful apartment in Tom and Barbee's home. She was so very fortunate to be able to remain autonomous all of her days. At the end of her life, Patti expressed no fear at the thought of death. As she put it, "I get great peace knowing, through my faith, that I will once again see all those I so dearly love and miss."

Patti's parting leaves a legion of loved ones who miss her each and every day.

A service is not being planned at this time.

McHenry Funeral Home is handling the arrangements. Please leave your condolence messages for the family below.

Tribute Wall



“ Growing up, I was one of the only children at the Alsea Methodist Church but Patti made me feel like I was just as welcome as any grown up. Patti was always one of my favorite people, and I was so grateful to always feel like she cared about me, even all these years later. The world lost a shining light with Patti gone, but I feel honored to carry her glow with me throughout my life.

Lilly Trammell - May 23, 2021 at 09:56 PM

DM

“ Patti Bird was a very special friend. I loved her dearly and missed her terribly when I moved from Alsea to Central Oregon. We stayed in touch for many years. I don't think I've ever felt so loved as when she would say “Oh, my little Diana, you're going to be fine.” Patti was and is a beautiful gift that I will cherish forever!
To Tom and family, my heart felt condolences!
Love, Diana Davis Mackenzie

Diana Davis Mackenzie - September 24, 2020 at 12:35 AM

JO

“ Patti absolutely made the world a better place. She did radiate that inner joy that has little to do with what was going on in the world; and everything to do with the love that filled her heart. It was a gift to have known her.
God bless her sweet soul.
Jan Olsen

Jan Olsen - September 23, 2020 at 12:36 PM

EM

“ *Patti was one of the beautiful women I was honored to call my friend. I cherish the memories of sitting at her little table having a cup of tea and a long visit.
My condolences to all of her family.
Eileen Minette*

Eileen Minette - September 23, 2020 at 12:06 PM

PH

“ *Patti's Soul was so beautiful she seemed to radiate love and kindness.
She will be missed by all who knew her.
Sending heartfelt sympathy to her family.
Patty Howell*

Patty Lou Howell - September 16, 2020 at 11:58 AM

DE

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Denise - September 10, 2020 at 01:38 PM



“ *Patti and I shared only a few visits but she was such a delightful, warm, and welcoming gift to my life. Cammie Bella*

Cammie Bella - September 09, 2020 at 09:08 PM

CB

“ Patti and I only had a few visits, but she was so delightful and welcoming. She reached out to me after she read a column I wrote for Interfaith Voices in the Corvallis Gazette-Times. We spent several life-giving face-to-face visits after that and I am blessed to have had her in my life. Cammie Bella

Cammie Bella - September 09, 2020 at 09:00 PM

LR

“ A very sweet lady. Kind and generous, it was a pleasure to have known her for many years. Ageya Nigada

Linda Roach - September 09, 2020 at 05:49 PM

MC

“ Patti was the kind of best friend all of us could ever want. Many good thoughts go with her, and thanks to her family for sharing her with us all. Mary Ann Carr

Mary Ann Carr - September 09, 2020 at 11:49 AM