



Patricia Jean Lenke

March 17, 1925 - November 7, 2024

Patricia Jean Lenke, 99, formerly of Warsaw, IN, passed away peacefully on November 7, 2024, in Sarasota, FL. She was born in Indianapolis, IN on March 17, 1925, to Chester C. Cooley and Deborah M. Shultz Cooley.

Having recently returned from his service in WWII, Pat met George H. Lenke, Jr. on a blind date New Year's Eve. She married this handsome pilot on September 20, 1947, in Elmhurst, IL.

In 1957, the Lenke family moved from Elmhurst, after Pat's family company, Da-Lite Screen, was relocated to Warsaw, IN. Here she raised her three daughters, Barbara, Sandra, and Nancy. Pat enjoyed an active social life, was involved in community affairs and made many lifelong friends. She spent over 50 wonderful years in her beloved Warsaw and Lake Tippecanoe homes before becoming a snowbird and wintering in Bird Key, Sarasota, FL.

In 2012, Pat moved from her home in Bird Key into an apartment in Plymouth Harbor, Sarasota, FL, to be close to her husband. She was especially fond of spending Friday nights at dinner with 'her girls', who called her 'the mother of the table'.

She loved celebrating her St. Patrick's Day birthday; she was always dressed in green and accessorized with her signature shamrocks. As a child growing

up in the Chicago area, she was certain the city dyed the Chicago River green in honor of her birthday. Pat was a worldwide traveler, delighting her daughters with the suitcases filled with souvenirs from her trips. She loved spending winters in Maui, HI, and many photos show Pat and her best friend, Lois, floating in the ocean for hours, holding hands, and talking non-stop.

For those who have known her over the years, all would agree that there never was a more kind, thoughtful, or generous person than Pat. If you had a birthday, she sent you a card or flowers; if you were anywhere in the world where bad weather might be occurring, you knew she was worried for you; if you were sick, she sent a card and advice on how to feel better. (The USPS occasionally sent her thank-you notes for purchasing so many stamps over her lifetime.) Though the arthritis in her hands was painful, it never stopped her from writing to friends. For Pat, it was always more fun to give than to receive.

Maya Angelou wrote “People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel”. This was one of Pat’s favorite quotes and she certainly personified this sentiment during her lifetime.

Pat spent 65 years with her husband, George, who passed away in 2013. She is survived by three daughters: Barbara Gmitter, Lakewood Ranch, FL, Sandra (Don) Brickel, Franklin, TN, and Nancy (Norman) Johnson, Pittsburgh, PA; six grandchildren: Kameron (Sean) McConnell, Wilmington, DE, Shannon (Patrick) Hawkins, Georgetown, KY, Adam Brickel and Samantha Brickel, Franklin, TN, Holly Johnson, Bradenton, FL, and Erica Johnson, Winston-Salem, NC; three great-grandchildren: Mallory McConnell, Wilmington, DE, Elizabeth (Thomas) Hazlett, Georgetown, KY, Christian Hawkins, Georgetown, KY; and one great-great grandchild, Cassandra Hazlett, Georgetown, KY. We will miss this loving and wonderful lady.

Pat was a faithful Christian and was a member of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Warsaw, IN and Concordia Lutheran Church, Sarasota, FL.

A Celebration of Life will be held on January 11, 2025, from 10am-12pm at Toale Brothers Funeral Home, 40 North Orange Avenue, Sarasota, FL.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Just Peachey, 13839 Royal Saddle Dr. Carmel, IN 46032, a charity that supports breast cancer research or Concordia Lutheran Church, 2185 Wood St., Sarasota, FL 34237.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JAN 11. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Toale Brothers Funeral Home & Crematory - Colonial Chapel

40 N. Orange Avenue

Sarasota, FL 34236

(941) 955-4171

info@toalebrothers.com

<https://www.toalebrothers.com/>

Tribute Wall

CR

“ Always enjoyed seeing Pat with her family at our home church Concordia Lutheran here in Sarasota. Being an Elder at Concordia I served Pat & George while they were at Plymouth Harbor. Would always enjoy our visits especially when I could get both talking about their early days together & a few of George's many heroics as a pilot while serving during WWII. Pat's beautiful, friendly personality & smile will most certainly be missed by so many of her friends & family. Rest in Peace Pat now that your back with George & Jesus arms.


Charles "Chuck" Resh - January 11, 2025 at 09:46 AM

MO

“ It is with great sadness I hear of the passing of a great and wonderful lady, Pat Lenke. She and George were welcoming hearts when we first arrived in Warsaw, Indiana from our homeland Cuba. My brother, Father, and I worked at Da-Lite Screen for many years. We will be forever grateful for having been loved as if we were part of the family and greeted with the most respect, kindness, and biggest smiles. What a legacy! On behalf of my family, my brothers Felipe J. Lopez, and Juan Lopez our deepest condolences to this wonderful family. We are thankful to have been blessed by all of you. May God fill your hearts with peace, memories, and love. Maria Lopez Oler and Randy Oler

Maria Lopez Oler - December 15, 2024 at 09:48 PM

MT

“ Pat was a wonderful, beautiful, kind and giving lady with a great sense of humor. I loved the years I could be a friend and companion to her and be her swim partner 

Margie Tesar - November 26, 2024 at 08:44 PM

LA

“ Laurie lit a candle in memory of Patricia Jean Lenke



Laurie - November 26, 2024 at 11:19 AM