



Patricia A. Bridgewater

July 1, 1947 - June 13, 2022

Patricia Ann Orde Bridgewater 1947~2022

It was 1946, and “good” unmarried girls did not get pregnant. However, Pat’s birth mother found herself totally in love with a handsome Nova Scotia, Canada, professional baseball player; and he returned the feelings. When he learned a baby was on the way, he wanted to marry her; but Pat’s maternal grandmother would not allow it because his mother (born in Damascus) could not speak English. Thus began the intrigue. Not even Pat’s maternal grandfather knew of her existence.

Her birth mother was given another name – one with a MRS. in front of it – and sent away to the NW part of the province to await Pat’s appearance. Pat arrived in Pictou, Nova Scotia, at 12:01 a.m. on Canada Day, July 1, 1947. An adoption had already been arranged with her birth grandmother’s brother in the United States, and she was kept hidden until it was time for her grandmother to take her to Missouri. Pat was put in a wicker basket, and her grandmother took round-about routes in order to avoid contact with her grandfather’s cousin who was a customs agent. Finally, they boarded a train to Pineville, Missouri. Six weeks later her proud new parents moved to Tulsa because they wanted her to have a good education and other advantages that a city had to offer.

Pat had the best of both worlds. Her new dad had taken a job as the caretaker of an oil millionaire’s estate two miles from downtown Tulsa. She could roam anywhere she wanted on the 27 acres and still be not over fifteen minutes

from anything the city had to offer. She attended all the old schools – Lee Elementary, Horace Mann Junior High, and Tulsa Central High School. In 1969 she graduated the University of Tulsa with a teaching degree and a husband who, unfortunately, had other interests.

In 1968, they moved to Miami, OK, where he had taken a teaching position at NEO A & M College; and, after graduation, she was hired as a Reading/Journalism teacher at Will Rogers Junior High until, seven years later, she transferred to Nichols Elementary where she taught fourth grade for 21 years.

God held her together during a lot of emotionally rough years, and the teaching helped keep her mind focused. Pat did not like the politics of education, but she loved her “kids.” In 1980, she earned her master’s degree and enough of a salary increase to be able to say good-bye the following January to the one who had brought her to Miami and to leave him to his own lifestyle choices.

Finally, on June 4, 1983, after a couple of years of on-again, off-again dating, Pat married the carpenter, Jerry Bridgewater. On November 22, 1984, their son, J.R., was born. Although he was her only biological child, she was more than blessed to add the carpenter’s kids and grandkids – and even some of those were not “blood.” Their family was comprised of people who declared relationships that no one could break. There was a lot of love – sometime a lot of frustration – but mostly there was a lot of love during their 35 years of marriage!

Eventually, Pat’s health decreased to the point of no longer being able to teach. She retired in 1997 and spent a few years learning to deal with her issues. Thankfully, Jerry, who had also retired, started singing in a gospel group; so, she attended their concerts and learned to run the sound system. It was a blessing for both of them.

When Pat’s health issues went into temporary remission in 2012, she began working a couple of hours a day at KGLC-FM and KVIS-AM radio stations. She said it was a good way to start a day. Jerry said she had stolen his job.

During their years together, she and Jerry had to bid good-bye to his mother, her parents, and eight of his nine brothers and sisters. They buried one of his brothers just six weeks before her mother went to Heaven. Twelve days after that funeral, Jerry was diagnosed with Parkinson's; but he was a fighter, and they were in the fight together until his death on August 5, 2018.

Pat is survived by her son, J.R., her stepdaughters Karen Rice and Marilyn Cummings, and her stepsons Tony Freeze and Rusty Cummings, ten grandchildren, ten great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild plus numerous other family members and friends. Pat did not like the term "step" in describing her "kids;" but, for the sake of genealogy, it is included here.

Cemetery Details

Glen-Abbey Memorial Garden

58915 East 100 Road
PO Box 1511
Miami, OK 74355
(918) 919-9904

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN 17. 6:30 PM (CT)

Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service
5 B Street NW
Miami, OK 74354
(918) 542-3311
info@brown-winters.com
<https://www.brown-winters.com>

Tribute Wall



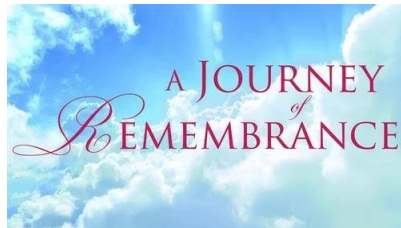
“ *Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service created a Webcast in memory of Patricia A. Bridgewater*



Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service - June 17, 2022 at 06:36 PM



“ *Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service created a Tribute Video in memory of Patricia A. Bridgewater*



Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service - June 15, 2022 at 11:26 AM

CP

Beautiful video of a petty lady and her family.

Cheryl Peacock - June 15, 2022 at 07:39 PM



“ Mom i miss you. I wish there was some way to reverse all this. Especially the way I've been treated after and right before you passed. I never thought anything would be like this. I know you wouldn't have done these things. I love you. I miss you.

Jr. Bridgewater - February 08, 2023 at 05:32 PM

SH

“ So sorry to hear about this. Mrs. Bridgewater was the best teacher I had in elementary school. She was a treasure!

Suzanne Haws - June 27, 2022 at 05:32 PM

RM

“ God Bless...



Randy & Charla Miller - June 18, 2022 at 08:36 AM

IS

“ Pat. A friend when needed. A forever friend. I miss you already.

Isabell - June 17, 2022 at 02:37 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Life Tributes



Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service - June 17, 2022 at 09:22 AM

DD

“ She was my Reading teacher in 7th grade, and I was one of her "chosen" Journalism students during my 8th and 9th grade years. She was a great instructor, a patient advisor, and a quick witted joker---able to give and to receive! She always dressed and presented herself so professionally and beautifully. Since that time, she had remained a true friend. I loved reading her story here....these are details she never shared, but they help round out the fabulous person that she had been. I will always remember her fondly.

Danny Dillon....WRJH student '72-'74, Friend for life!

Danny Dillon - June 16, 2022 at 11:26 AM



Thanks for sharing. Missing my mom a lot.

Jr. Bridgewater - February 08, 2023 at 05:25 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Patricia A. Bridgewater.*



June 16, 2022 at 12:47 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Patricia A. Bridgewater.*



June 15, 2022 at 11:55 PM

CP

“ I transferred from Washington Elementary to Nichols Elementary where I met Pat. She was a strong woman who loved the people she worked with and the children she taught. She loved to laugh and had a pretty smile. I would lose contact from time to time but recently reconnected with her on Facebook. The last I heard was she was home from the hospital. I didn't know what was wrong but told her that if she needed anything I would try to find some way to help her. I didn't know that would be our last conversation. I'll miss your spirit Pat!!! My thoughts and prayers are with her family, especially J.R.



Cheryl Peacock - June 15, 2022 at 07:53 PM



Thank you for sharing. I'm missing my mom a lot

Jr. Bridgewater - February 08, 2023 at 05:28 PM



“ 63 files added to the album Life Tributes



Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service - June 15, 2022 at 11:15 AM

DJ

“ *Patricia: There is no such thing as a half-sibling. You were and will always remain my sister. Life and circumstance cheated us of 30 years of being brother and sister. But when you bear hugged me that first time those years melted away. I am so much a better man for your finding me. Rest eternally and peacefully in the arms of God. I love you. And hug the Ol' dog for me. Danny*

Danny Joseph - June 14, 2022 at 06:48 PM

AS

“ *Allen Bridgewater and Sons purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Patricia A. Bridgewater.*



Allen Bridgewater and Sons - June 14, 2022 at 05:10 PM

MB

“ *As a member of The Hall Family, we came to grow and love Pat and Jerry. I spent my childhood growing up around them. Going to Singings, eating, fellowshipping. They both always had the biggest smiles and Pat was always the loudest and funniest in the room. Loved her and all her family so much! So sorry for your loss. May she rest in Heaven with Jesus and all her friends and family that she's met there!*

Mandy Banks - June 14, 2022 at 11:49 AM

TC

I work at KGVE radio in Grove doing. We talked on the phone almost daily, solving problems and probably creating new ones. Sometimes I would answer our phone with "Good morning, KGVE" and she would say, "Is it?" We had a lot in common and she was the wittiest person I knew. I was unable to go say good-bye because I got the dreaded Covid. Oh, Pat. How I already miss you. I love you, girl. You will always have a place in my heart. Until we meet again.

Terri Cox - June 21, 2022 at 03:10 PM



Thanks for sharing. Missing mom a lot.

Jr. Bridgewater - February 08, 2023 at 05:26 PM