



Patricia "Patty" Marie Gray

May 24, 1943 - December 21, 2011

Patricia "Patty" Marie Gray, age 68 of Albia, passed away Wednesday, December 21, 2011 at Oakwood Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Albia.

Patty was born May 24, 1943 north of Hiteman to Jesse and Mary (Hoover) Gray. She married Ronnie Underwood, and they later divorced.

A graduate of Albia High School, Class of 1962; Pat grew up and attended grade school in Hiteman. She worked at Smitty's right out of high school. She also worked for many years at the Albia Manor and VA Hospital in Knoxville.

Patty was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Fraternal Order of Eagles, VFW Auxiliary, Professional Musicians' Club of Iowa, Midwest County Jamboree, and taught CCD classes at St. Mary's. She loved music and has recordings of herself singing from younger years and when she traveled to Nashville, TN to record a Country album. She always enjoyed singing at mass, funerals, in the Follies, and at nursing homes. She also sang a lot of Country and Gospel at the Iowa State Fair. She had an interest for nature and liked watching Animal Planet, along with being outdoors and going fishing. Most important to Pat was her family, especially her nieces and nephews.

Patty is survived by her mother, Mary Gray of Albia; siblings, Cathy (Jim) Flattery of Albia, Steve (Sandy) Gray of Hiteman, Greg (Jolene Aunspach) Gray of Albia, Mary Beth (Gary) Caster of Albia, and Tim (Debbie) Gray of

Rochelle, IL. Patty is also survived by many nieces and nephews, Rick and Melissa, Michelle, Mike, Monica, and Bobby, Stevie and Jean Ann, Brenda, Amy, and Chris, Lacey, Adam, Billy, and Bobby; and 16 great nieces and nephews.

Patty is preceded in death by her father, Jesse; and a special aunt and uncle, Maxine and George Havelock.

Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 a.m., Saturday, December 24, 2011 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Albia; with Father Michael E. Volkmer, C.P.P.S. officiating. Interment will be in Hiteman Cemetery in Hiteman.

Visitation will begin at 12 p.m. noon, Friday, December 23, 2011 at Tharp-Winfield Funeral Home in Albia with Pat's family present throughout the day and evening. A rosary will be led by St. Mary's Altar and Rosary Society Friday at 4 p.m., at the funeral home, along with a Christian Wake Service Friday evening at 6:30 p.m.

An open memorial has been established in Patty's name.

Condolences may be made at www.tharpfh.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Patricia "Patty" Marie Gray*

January 30, 2023 at 05:06 AM



“ *Patricia "Patty" Marie Gray*

January 30, 2023 at 02:53 AM



“ *Tim & Deb,
Sorry for your loss. I enjoyed the time I got to meet Patty. We all went to Fairfield Iowa to hear her sing. She was a pleasant person. So, Sorry .*

Lewanne & Trent Hageman

Lewanne Hageman - Ottumwa, IA - Deb Gray's sister - December 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Patty worked with me on the Midwest Country News in the 1990's; she was a joy to know, a joy to work with, and a joy to be around. So sorry to hear of her death; my thoughts are with her family.
Barbara Hays-Ackley, MC News publisher*

Barbara Hays-Ackley - Mercer, MO - friend - December 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ I remember Patty as a friend as a kid and playing at her Grandma Annie', a neighbor on the farm west of Albia. She had a beautiful voice and was a gentle person. She will be missed.

Camille Price - Ephrata, WA - classmate and childhood friend - December 24, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ We cherished all the time Darrell spent singing on the stage with Pat and we enjoyed listening to her sing. She treated everyone with grace and dignity. Pretty lady, pretty voice, class act. She had a great welcoming smile and a wonderful personality. We are glad to have know Pat and sorry for your loss.

Darrell & Cindy Koehler - Udell, IA - Musical Friends - December 24, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ Patty and I shared a love of music. I was excited and proud when she went to Nashville for the recording. I remembering thinking I could write songs and Patty could sing them. I never followed through with my part, but Patty did. She could SING! We also shared a special day. We were both born on May 24th. Patty would send me a birthday card for many years. I always think of her on our birthday and will continue to do so. Aunt Mary, Cathy, Steve, Greg, Betsy, and Tim, spouses, and all the children, I send you love and peace. Patty will be caroling with Choirs of Angels.

Rhonda Gray Mitrisin - Brooksville, FL - cousin - December 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ Pat could really tell funny stories, and she loved to laugh. I remember times when we laughed so hard and for so long that we forgot what we were laughing about. I also think about Pat's faith in God, and how right now she is enjoying laughter in paradise. She (no doubt) will have some great stories to tell me when I see her again. Miss you girl, love you. Ann

Ann Huyser - Pella, IA - sister-in-law, friend - December 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ What a beautiful picture of Patty!! I am so glad I got to see her in August when I came back for our high school luncheon. Several of us "girls" went over to visit with her since she was too ill to attend the luncheon. What a sweet person she was and a blessing to all of us. She will be singing in the heavenly choir on this Christmas Day! What a joyous occasion for her!

Linda Lewis Stanford - Ruidoso, NM - High School Classmate - December 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ Patty was a terrific person, she will be deeply missed.

Tina Shaffer - Knoxville, IA - friend - December 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DC

“Patty, or should I say "Paddy," was a very thoughtful person. She was always asking how everyone was, always worried about the well being of others. "Paddy" got her nickname from my little brother, Aaron. She got a kick out of my ornery stinker of a brother. She loved her nickname so much that she had it as her license plate on her car. She will always be "Paddy" to us. She often took us to the nursing homes with her when she would sing to the residents. She would let me accompany her with my flute. It always felt like an honor to be able to make music with her when she had such a beautiful voice.

The funniest memory of Paddy taking us to Oakwood was when she had taught my brother Aaron how to sing a few songs, but when she tried to get him to sing there he wouldn't. I told him I would sing if he wasn't going to. He got all mad at me, slapped me, and said "NO Dacia! You don't know the words!" He decided to sing with Paddy, which was difficult for Paddy cause she was laughing so hard.

She sang at my wedding. I was so honored to have her do this for me. I always loved it when she would sing, "Crazy." It was like having Patsy Cline in our home. She started my love for Patsy. She brought me back a Patsy t-shirt when she came back from TN. I actually think I still have it.

I know someday we will hear that beautiful voice singing again. Next time we hear it there will be angels backing her up. I can't wait to hear that miraculous sound. Rest in the arms of our Lord Paddy, until we meet again. Love you!

Dacia Gutcher - Albia, IA - Cousin - December 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LN

“ I have way too many memories to share. She started my love of music. She introduced me to Pasty Cline and I have been hooked since. She was always there to listen and offer advice. When my mom had back surgery she took the time to come and stay with us to make sure that we were taken care off. She would pick us up from school everyday and take us to Wooley’s to get frozen custard. When I was younger she put up with my constant chattering and was quick to remind me not to get mad at my son for his constant talking because he was just like me. It warmed my heart when my son met her for the first time. He instantly loved her as much I do. She has touched so many lives, including my son. He loves to put on her country tape and dance and sing around. She was loved so many and was loved by so many. She is in a better place looking down at us all. We will never forget you.

Lacey Gray - Rochelle, IL - Niece - December 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ Patty was a good friend and classmate. I always remember how I had to practically drag her kicking and screaming to join the glee club at ACHS. Believe it or not, she was terrified to sing alone for Mrs. Schindler, our music teacher. But, once she started singing, there was no stopping her....and what a beautiful voice she had! She was a great gal, and she will be sadly missed by the many whose lives she touched over the years. Love You Patty ~ Karen

Karen Smead Dicks - Ottumwa, IA - Classmate and Friend - December 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

EF

“ Patty will be missed by all who knew her and she touched their lives ,she was a friend and classmate.

Elizabeth See Culbertson - Knoxville , IA - friend - December 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ *Rest in Peace*

Jean Reno - Rochelle, IL - friend - December 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SG

“ *I am so sorry Tim, Debbie, Lasey, Adam and families of your lost. May your loved one rest in peace Suzan Malone-Jacobsen*

Suzan Malne Jacobsen - Clinton, IA - cousin of Debbis Grey - December 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ *Patty will be sorely missed by all. She was truly an asset to the community and someone I will always hold dear to my heart. She always had such an upbeat attitude about life.*

*You will be so missed, my dear old friend,
Carol*

Carol (Kenworthy) Stewart - Issaquah, WA - Classmate and Friend - December 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ *Patty & I went to school together in Hiteman, graduating from 8th grade together ...she sang a spiritual at graduation called "HE" which I can still hear today and brings tears to my eyes. She & I went to sign up for high school that fall and she had to stop to visit her cousin Larry in the hospital and she introduced us....that was over 50 years ago and we are still together, "thanks" Patty. We love you Patty and will miss you but now we know you are at rest and no longer suffer from so much pain. Jeanne & Larry*

Jeanne and Larry Frye - Lakeland, FL - Cousin to Larry & Jeanne - December 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM