



Patricia Pate Barker

June 10, 2021

Patricia Pate Barker, 88 passed away peacefully at Kingsway Arms Nursing Center on Thursday June 10, 2021. She was the daughter of the late Walter E. and Marie McDonald Pate.

Pat grew up in Castleberry, Alabama and attended the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, where she received her undergraduate, MA and PHD degrees in Psychology. She was on the faculties of Skidmore College, James Madison University, and Schenectady Co. Community College (1974-2003), where she was also chair of the Social Sciences Dept. for several years. Other positions include adjunct faculty at Empire State College, and editor for several psychology textbooks for Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich.

An avid reader, Pat was an active member of several book clubs. She participated in creative writing groups and workshops, with dreams of publishing a short story collection. For many years she was a member of the Schenectady Curling Club. Her passions included visiting Acadia National Park in Maine; attending theater, dance and concert performances, watching C-Span, and playing Scrabble. Proud of her independence, Pat kept her fighting spirit (and her gentle southern accent) to the end.

Survived by her children, Ann-Marie Schwartz (Fred) and Philip Barker, grandchildren Jennifer (Zach), Erich, Elizabeth and Christoph; her sister

Louise (Pate)Lee, as well as her former husband Edward Barker and several nieces and nephews. Pre-deceased by her sister Evelyn (Pate) Sullivan.

A memorial service will be scheduled for August. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Musicians of Ma'alwyck, 511 Mohawk Ave., Scotia, NY 12302 or to SUNY Schenectady Foundation, SUNY Schenectady Co. Community College, 78 Washington Ave., Schenectady, NY 12305, in loving memory of Patricia P. Barker. The family would like to thank the staff of Kingsway Arms and Dr. Steven Goldberg, who took care of her with compassion and respect. On line condolences to the family may be made to www.amicofuneralhome.com.

Tribute Wall

EL

“ Hello,
My name is Edwin Litts. I was a student of Professor Barker in the mid 1970's at S.C.C.C.. I am saddened to hear of her passing. I have continued wonderful memories of her teaching. I remember her soft, slower-paced, and encouraging voice. Always with that pleasant smile situated over those yellow legal pad of notes, she encouraged and inspired us all. To this day I can recall the Psychology terms she imparted and the significance of them. Many are included in the novel I wrote 'Adam's Roads'.
Also, on page 69 "He liked his Psychology course and its soft-spoken, mild-mannered professor too. Oh, how this motherly-type Professor from the South continually and easily encouraged students to learn."
She was my favorite teacher. I am sure you are proud of her. What a wonderful human being she continues to be for me.
Edwin Litts
dunen1234@aol.com

Edwin Litts - July 14, 2021 at 08:58 AM

CG

“ Pat was a most wonderful, down to earth lady. Very intelligent and articulate, always so cheerful and a delight to talk with. I will miss her... -Claudia Gregoire

Claudia Gregoire - June 17, 2021 at 09:35 PM

VF

“ Pat was a talented writer, a treasured friend, and a joy to be with, whether at the writers' group. Glimmerglass Opera, an event at Proctor's, or at the book club. Her stories were absolutely wonderful in every way....characterization, plot, theme....with a picture perfect sense of place. I am thankful for both her friendship and her generous writing mentorship.
--Ginny Folger

Virginia Bach Folger - June 16, 2021 at 09:40 PM

TW

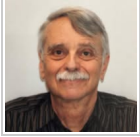
“ Pat was a treasured member of our writing workshop, which met in the SCPL. I didn't know her extraordinary back story, but I did hang on every word of her wonderful writing. I hope somebody has her manuscripts and can find a way to get them published so she can continue to touch the lives of many more people.
Tom Willemain

Thomas Willemain - June 16, 2021 at 12:28 PM

PB

“ This photo captures so well the spirit of this respected colleague, friend, neighbor. She was an accomplished woman and always a formidable presence. Our fond sympathy to Anne-Marie, Philip and the many who love her.
Paul and Margaret Bryant.

Paul Bryant - June 16, 2021 at 09:22 AM



“ I have been away and learned of Pat's passing this morning. I am so deeply sorry. We were colleagues in the Humanities/Social Sciences Department at SCCC for 29 years. What an extraordinary person she was. I greatly admired and respected her as a scholarly colleague and valued her as a true friend. My condolences are heart felt.

David Hughes

David Hughes - June 15, 2021 at 08:30 PM