



Patrick D. West

May 29, 1945 - January 4, 2024

Patrick D. West, 78, of Bourbonnais passed away on January 4, 2024. Pat grew up in Kankakee with his brother David and parents Roy and Bercha (Sherertz) West. His childhood was filled with sandlot and little league baseball, road trips to see cousins, and gatherings at the park district with family friends. A graduate of Kankakee High School where he was involved in several activities including varsity golf, Pat attended U of I for aeronautical engineering before enlisting in the US Air Force. He served in intelligence and kept snippets of Japanese and Arabic in his vocabulary after being stationed in Japan and Turkey.

After returning from service and securing a job as an air traffic controller, Pat married high school friend Paulette Ankerstar in 1970. Though they later divorced, they reconciled back to friendship not too many years later, which was a gift to their children, Derek and Christina. Sadly, Pat and Paulette endured the death of their son in 2010, and Paulette passed in 2014.

In the years the family lived together in Aurora, Pat enjoyed showing off for the kids at the driving range, bowling, playing cards, pool, and games like Trivial Pursuit and chess. He built a limestone basketball court in the back yard, planted winter seedlings in the basement for the family garden, and toyed with the video equipment of the time, as he worked at electronics stores following the controller strike of 1981. The family was treated to many delightful yet

embarrassing home videos at a time when they were somewhat uncommon. He worked multiple jobs and evening shifts to make ends meet and cherished the time he could set aside with Derek at scouts or baseball and with Christina at dance and her high school sports.

Pat has a brick at Sox Park that reads “Pat West Exemplifies the Grinder Rules.” A theme of the 2005 World Series-winning season for the White Sox, the Grinder Rules were all about reaping the payoff from doing the little things right, discipline, and stepping up to the plate to do what needed to be done. That was Pat. He imparted a love for the Southside team to his kids; Derek followed them like no one else, and Christina connected with now-husband Dave over Sox baseball. It’s a legacy the family will never let go. Once Derek and Christina were adults, there were so many fun times at the park between tailgates, meet-ups in the bullpen bar, and special trips to the stadium club together.

Pat had great friends in his later employment at Airfone and Row44. Notably, he was working in the network operations center when the calls from UA Flight 93 came through on 9/11. Pat was whip-smart, and up to the day he was hospitalized was dedicated to his consecutive streak of solving cryptoquotes in the paper. He did his best to turn the grandkids onto sudoku. His vast lexicon included plenty of dad/grandpa-isms like kewl, I’m hep, and military throwbacks like copy. He appreciated proper grammar and was quick to remind the kids and grandkids not to start a sentence with “me and so-and-so”—certainly another legacy he hoped to leave.

Above all, Pat was a person of integrity. He loved his kids, grandkids, brother, in-laws, and extended family and friends dearly. He was a superfan of Christina’s rugby and all the grandkid events. He cherished Facetimes and never missed a family birthday party. Pat is survived by his daughter Christina and son-in-law Dave Ryan; grandchildren Sonya (Derek and Margo Robles),

Audra, and Blake; brother David West; nieces, nephews, cousins and their families; as well as the neighbors of Woodstock Lane. He will be so very deeply missed.

Visitation will be from 1:00 to 3:00 pm on Sunday, January 21, 2024 at Clancy Gernon of Bourbonnais, with a short service at 3:00 pm. All are welcome. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to White Sox Charities or FARE (Food Allergy Research and Education).

Cemetery Details

Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery

20953 Hoff Road
Elwood, IL 60421

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

JAN 21. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.
295 Main St., NW
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Memorial Service

JAN 21. 3:00 PM (CT)

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295 Main St., NW
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Tribute Wall

NM

“ So many great memories of all the family reunions and get together when we were kids! Rest in peace, Pat. Nancy Mayo

Nancy Mayo Meyer - January 20, 2024 at 09:28 AM

CH

“ R.I.P. Cousin, have a beer with Uncle Babe.....

Cheri - January 19, 2024 at 07:35 PM

“P

“ I am close friends with Pat's daughter Christina. She shared so many stories and admiration for her dad over the past 25 years that I have been friends with her. He raised an absolutely amazingly strong, brilliant and kind daughter- no small feat, great job Pat! His legacy lives on in her. Much love to the entire family and friends- we will miss Pat forever.

“Prenti” - January 18, 2024 at 02:25 AM

JB

“ Dang, so sorry to see this, Pat was a good friend all through school, from Washington Grade, West Jr and KHS. We played sports together from basketball to bowling leagues and he was always ultra competitive. Remember when he had his appendix taken out in grade school & before he returned to school our teacher warned us not to punch Pat in the stomach. For the most part lost contact with him after HS but in 04 we were on jury duty together and it was great seeing and talking to him again about old times. Tried to contact him last summer about going to the class reunion but was unsuccessful, would have liked to have seen him again, he was a good guy & friend.

Jerry the Mailman

jerry bjick - January 17, 2024 at 11:23 AM

JB

So very sorry about Pat. We lived next door to each other on 5th ave. He taught me to play chess and I was never able to beat him. When my wife and I were married he was one of our wedding party. He was a good man and will be missed.

Jim Becker

Jim Becker - January 17, 2024 at 05:34 PM

DM

“ I worked with Pat at Chicago Center. I got to know him even better after the FAA while working at Video Concepts. I returned to FAA in flight service in Kankakee. When I received a transfer to Colorado Pat graciously let me live with him and his Mother for about 6 weeks (my wife, Millie, already moved). The first day he showed me around his yard and knowing I enjoyed birds said, “Hey, take a look at this tree and tell me what you think is happening.” When I looked at a row of 12-15 holes in a horizontal line in the trunk I said, “Oh neat! I think you’ve had a visit from a yellow bellied sapsucker!” Pat was astounded and replied sarcastically “ A YELLOW BELLIED SAPSUCKER?!!” He really didn’t believe me. I explained they drill small holes and come back hours later to lick up the sap. Pat was lots of fun and I’m sorry we lost a true friend.

David Masson - January 16, 2024 at 09:27 PM

TA

“ Our condolences to Pat's entire Family...he was a quick witted guy, good Air Traffic Controller & PATCO Brother that will be missed...RIP Pat! Terry & Barbara Anderson

Terry Anderson - January 16, 2024 at 05:43 PM

JS

Good job Terry

John sumner - January 16, 2024 at 07:27 PM

FV

“ My name is Fred Vogelpohl, and were fellow crew members of crew 3, East Wing. We were one of the few crews at ZAU that had 100% on 3 August, 1981.

A couple years before that, we had a crew party at my house. Pat loved his Scotch Whiskey, and he got a bit ahead of the curve. Afterwards he blamed me for his state of inebriation because of the brand of Scotch I served him!

On another occasion during the Winter, as the weather the next day was scheduled to be blizzard conditions, he boastfully said he was going to pick me up to go to work as my 1973 Chevy station wagon was unfit for the job. We lived a few blocks away, and his Yellow Volkswagen was unstoppable according to Pat. Guess what vehicle we made it in to work in!?!

If anyone deserves a Gold Star for their work after the strike to try and get us back in the building, Pat is that man. If he wasn't at home or at work, he was at the Lawyers office, slaving away for the rest of us.

Cheers, Fred

Frederic Vogelpohl - January 16, 2024 at 05:42 PM

JS

Good job Fred. I remember Him in the East Wing. Good guy

John sumner - January 16, 2024 at 07:25 PM

RW

Hi Fred. Another 3E crew member here. I think I remember helping you move a piano. Pat was my fellow crew member and neighbor and our daughters were best friends. I didn't really keep in touch with anyone after the strike - too busy trying to survive I guess. Sad to see how many people on crew 3 East are gone. Your heartfelt memories of Pat brought a smile.

Robert Wright - January 19, 2024 at 11:58 PM

RP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ron Taylor, President PATCO - January 16, 2024 at 11:04 AM