



Patricia Keenan Porta

March 17, 1940 - July 10, 2018

Patricia Keenan Porta, age 78 of Lewes, DE, passed away on Tuesday, July 10, 2018, at her home after a short illness. She was born Sunday, March 17, 1940, in Cleveland, OH, daughter of the late James A. and Marjorie (Rooney) Keenan.

Mrs. Porta graduated from St. Francis School of Nursing in Pittsburgh, PA, in 1961 and earned her BSN from Rutgers University in 1978. She enjoyed a career as an occupational health nurse that spanned many years, with both AT&T Bell Laboratories and Lucent Technologies. On November 25, 1961, she married the love of her life, Robert Charles Porta, in North Canton, Ohio.

Mrs. Porta loved to travel. She was a skilled knitter, enjoying other needlework as well, an avid reader, and a fan of NPR. Mrs. Porta was a dedicated and active member of St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church and a faithful volunteer for Coastal Concerts. Above all, she cherished time spent with her family. Mrs. Porta was a loving and devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend, and she will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

In addition to her parents, Mrs. Porta was preceded in death by her brother Terence Keenan and her sister Carolyn Keenan. She is survived by her beloved husband of more than 56 years, Robert C. Porta of Lewes, DE; her children: Kathie Baker (Wesley Baker), Marianne Allen, Meg Porta (Matthew Swayhoover), and Michael Porta (Ginny Paige); her grandchildren, Wendy Baker, Christopher Allen, Stephen Allen, Robert Allen, and Elizabeth Allen; her brother, Sean Keenan; and a wide circle of extended family and friends.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Wednesday, July 18, 2018, at 11:00 AM at St. Jude the Apostle Church, 152 Tulip Drive, Lewes, DE, where friends may visit beginning at 10:00 AM. Friends may also call the night prior, Tuesday, July 17, 2018, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, at Parsell Funeral Homes and Crematorium, Atkins-Lodge Chapel, Lewes, DE. Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions in Mrs. Porta's memory to a charity or nonprofit. An organization that has received Mrs. Porta's longtime support is the Southern Poverty Law Center, 400 Washington Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36104, or www.splcenter.org.

Please sign the online guestbook located on this site.

**FLORIST NOTE: PLEASE DELIVER ALL FLORAL ARRANGMENTS BY 11AM
TUESDAY, JULY 17, 2018 TO OUR LEWES LOCATION.**

Events

JUL **Viewing** 05:00PM - 07:00PM

17
Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium-Atkins-Lodge Chapel
16961 Kings Highway, Lewes, DE, US, 19958

JUL **Visitation** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

18
Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium-Atkins-Lodge Chapel
16961 Kings Highway, Lewes, DE, US, 19958

JUL **Mass of Christian Burial** 11:00AM

18
St. Jude The Apostle Catholic Church
152 Tulip Drive, Lewes, DE, US

Comments



“ Working together with Pat for so many years at Bell Labs, I remember what a caring and competent RN she was. She was able to calm patients and remain calm herself in all kinds of challenging situations. What a good person!
Bill Mainer

William Mainer - July 21, 2018 at 05:51 PM



“ Simply Chic Mixed Plant Basket was purchased for the family of Patricia Keenan Porta.



July 16, 2018 at 05:39 PM



“ Richard Jupa purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Patricia Keenan Porta.



Richard Jupa - July 15, 2018 at 08:09 PM



“ One of the first things I learned about Pat after I met Michael in 2010, was that every morning she drove to her local Starbuck's for a mocha. Being a huge fan of mocha myself, I was instantly smitten with this marvelous woman and envious of her ability to easily consume so much sugar on a daily basis.

Over the years, Pat shared tidbits about the Starbucks staff and I found myself intrigued with people I would likely never meet. Through Pat, I also “met” parents, grandparents, artists, nurses, shopkeepers, happy people, people down on their luck, twice removed cousins of a former next door neighbor and pets of a woman's former daughter in law who Pat once met after parking her car. I believe that these interactions spoke to a bigger picture though – one of a woman who was present in life, present for each and every interaction, truly caring and interested in her fellow

humans, so naturally engaged. Someone who valued the art of conversation, wanting to know everyone's story. A true people person. A treasure. I am certain that Pat's authentic interest in others has especially impacted those who needed the ear, to know someone cared about them in the moment, however fleeting the moment was. It certainly has for me.

Pat was also an amazing gift giver and on more than one occasion presented me with a gift I didn't realize I needed and that soon became a go to necessity. I especially thank Pat for the cowl scarves that she knitted for me - she knew I found them so warm, fashionable and comforting and that I live in them from November until April each year. Same for my beagle, CP – because of Pat's thoughtfulness and generosity, he has a wonderful toy collection that continues to intrigue. He sends licks and his best regards to Pat always.

It has been my honor to be a part of Pat's life – she is my mother-in-law and my friend. Thank you, Double P. I love you. xo

Ginny - July 15, 2018 at 05:44 PM



“ Love Caroline purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Patricia Keenan Porta.



Love Caroline - July 15, 2018 at 04:20 PM



“ Michael and Family,

We are saddened to hear of Pat's passing. Meeting her last summer was a real gift...her love for her family and life was clear and unmistakable. We just wish there was more time to have gotten to know her better, since I'm sure we would have had some interesting discussions.

Condolences to all of you during this trying time.

Fred and Mary Ann

Fred Hetzel - July 14, 2018 at 02:39 PM



“ Pat has been a very Dear “sister” to me since we met back in 1976 at AT&T Bell Laboratories. She took me under her wing many a time, and supported me through some rough times. I will always have fond memories of her generously and graciously sharing her fun and special family with me, along with their special traditions. Pat has a heart of gold and her generous and kind and caring spirit will live on in my heart as am sure many others. She was beautiful inside as well as out with her wisp of silver hair and bright blue eyes. Her quick wit would keep you on your toes and smiling all day. Her lovingly hand knitted special gifts will now be treasures of a valued and special friendship with many wonderful memories. Pat, you will be missed greatly, but I know your devoted husband and your beautiful children will carry on your kind, warm, loving, bright and faithful spirit.

Caroline Hetfield - July 13, 2018 at 03:53 PM



“ Carolyn and Gary Ecelbarger and family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Patricia Keenan Porta.



Carolyn and Gary Ecelbarger and family - July 12, 2018 at 12:13 PM



“ Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of Patricia Keenan Porta.



July 11, 2018 at 02:48 PM



“ Dear Meg and the Extended Porta Family,

Your friends in Atlanta express their sincere condolences to you and your family as well as Pat's friends including the staff at her nearby favorite Starbucks who, I learned through Harriet, reached out to you to express condolence and offer support. Pat was clearly an unforgettable charmer and coffeeshop raconteur!

May your entire family be showered with love and kindness over the course of your

mourning transition.

It is certain your mother left behind PLENTY of love, wisdom, and strength that you all can tap into from the remainder of your lives -- a reservoir that you all will replenish through new expressions of love, kindness, and wisdom. Your mother now lives among the Social Immortals, those rare and wonderful souls who depart us leaving behind lifelong lessons of kindness, courage, empathy, courtesy, and joi de vivre!

This final gift will be her greatest legacy -- and your living inheritance to hold in comfort now -- and give away with joy gratitude when your hearts are no longer breaking. Be strong and know we care.

Your Friends from Good Thinking Atlanta
Kathi, Todd, Neil, Angela, Artem, Susan, Matthew

Matthew Porter - July 11, 2018 at 12:47 PM



“ I can't remember life without Pat Porta. She was a great friend to my family. She was like a second mother to me. The last time I saw her she was very healthy, so it is very hard to imagine that she is gone. She was so loving and always available when I needed advice. My heart goes out to Bob and the children. I am so sorry.

Sincerely,

Susanne (Henn) Malmos

Susanne Louise - July 11, 2018 at 12:16 PM



“ Pat will be missed by her family and friends. She was very kind and funny. When my first book was published, she and my sister Kathy drove down from Delaware for my launch. My heartfelt condolences to Bob and her family.

Maggie (Peggy) King

Maggie King - July 12, 2018 at 09:34 AM