



Patricia A. Petersen

January 31, 1937 - November 16, 2025

Patricia A. "Patt" Petersen, 88, of Rockford, passed away on November 16, 2025. Born January 31, 1937, in Toledo, Ohio, she was the daughter of Howard and Martha (Behrman) Ziegler. She graduated from Whitmer High School, Class of 1955, and was united in marriage to Robert Petersen on August 10, 1955, in Toledo.

Patt was known for her tremendous heart, compassion, and conviction. She co-founded Open Door Society, an advocacy organization supporting mixed-race adoptions. Together with her husband, she adopted four children and fostered several more, welcoming young people, offering love and stability.

A resident of McHenry, IL for many years, Patt was a member of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, where she participated in the choir, served as a youth group leader and Sunday school teacher, and was active in the ladies sewing circle.

A devoted pet lover, Patt extended gentle empathy to every animal she met. As a gifted gardener, she tended her yard with care and creativity, earning "Yard of the Month" in her Churchill Grove neighborhood. She was also recognized as a talented seamstress and artist, sewing her children's clothing and costumes, and handcrafting dolls, gnomes, and Santa figures, each reflecting her whimsical style and meticulous eye for detail. Inspired by her involvement in a greyhound rescue organization, she crafted beds, coats, and accessories for dogs. She especially treasured times spent crafting with her dear friend, Joy Dworniczek.

Patt was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Petersen; her parents; her special friend Joy Dworniczek; and her husband's twin sisters, Marie and Mary, whose presence was a source of joy and support in her extended family.

Surviving are her children, John (Cathy Martinez) Petersen, Christen Petersen, Kim (Michael) Thomas, Jesse (Sheryl Sudar) Petersen, and Scott (Jennifer Thompson) Petersen; her grandchildren, Jennifer (Matt), Jessica (Austin), Joey, Justin, Logan, Jarrett, Zach, Najee, Kimiko, Kyari, Filip, Maya, and Miles; two great-grandchildren; her sister, Diana (Quinn) Ahrens; as well as many extended family members and friends.

Patricia's kindness, creativity, and boundless love enriched the lives of all who knew her. Her legacy of compassion and devotion lives on in the hearts of her family, friends, and all those she touched. She will be deeply missed, yet lovingly remembered, forever.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Interment will take place at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery on a future date. Grace Funeral & Cremation Services assisted the family.

Memorials and condolences may be shared with the family at www.graceFH.com.

Tribute Wall

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“ Love this woman so much. Will never forget her.

Kimberly Hansen - January 03 at 12:44 PM