



Patricia Jane Aldrich

January 20, 1936 - July 6, 2024

Patricia J. Aldrich, age 88, of Storm Lake, Iowa died July 6, 2024 at Methodist Manor Retirement Community in Storm Lake.

Funeral Mass will take place Thursday, July 11, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church in STORM LAKE. Burial will be in the Little Sioux Township Cemetery in Smithland, Iowa. Visitation will take place Wednesday, July 10, 2024 from 5-7:00 p.m. at the Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in STORM LAKE. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed in Patricia's name to a local blood bank of your choice or St. Croix Hospice. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

Patricia Jane Fitzgerald was born January 20, 1936, the second daughter of Earl and Sybil Fitzgerald of Hornick, Iowa. She completed high school in Hornick, then married Lowell Aldrich of Rodney in October, 1954. The couple settled on Lowell's family farm south of Rodney, and the first of their five children appeared on the scene just ten months later.

With four more kids close behind, Pat threw herself into the job of raising children. She sat through countless little league games in Smithland, band concerts and football games in Mapleton; she baked birthday cakes, gardened, canned what she grew, cracked and sold black walnuts, and played the organ at two Catholic Churches. She joined a bowling league and played

cards with other Moms in our little valley, and once bought a sail boat, because why not?

Pat loved her life on the farm, but as her children grew older and more independent, she grew, too. She got certified as an EMT for the local ambulance service and spent more of her free time at estate sales and auctions, kindling a life-long love of antiques. She opened her first shop in an old filling station in Smithland with her friend Pat McDonald, and an antique business was born.

Eventually, she would open her own antique mall in Onawa, Iowa, where she made lasting friendships with antique collectors from all around the country.

But work and family were only part of who Pat was. A voracious reader, she always wanted to see the larger world. Family trips to Colorado and the Black Hills only sparked her imagination, and she set her sights on bigger game: a safari in Kenya and Tanzania; a trip to her native Ireland; an Alaska cruise; Hawaii, Costa Rica and the Panama Canal; Banff National Park in Canada and Sanibel Island, Florida. Lake Okoboji was a spiritual place for her. Each of her kids and grandkids can recite her favorite travel expression by heart: "I'll go anywhere, anytime, with anybody." And she meant it.

She was also active in Onawa community theater, and was a hospice volunteer.

In 2014, she moved to Storm Lake, Iowa, to be nearer to her daughter, Stacy and son-in-law, Zeke. A series of small strokes eventually took away her ability to drive and travel on her own, but she enjoyed watching her great-granddaughter's softball games, her great-grandson's motorcycle races, playing Fast Track with Bruce and Suzie, as well as frequent visits from friends, children and grandchildren. She died peacefully on July, 6, 2024, at

the age of 88.

Pat was preceded in death by her parents, as well as her sister Diana and brother Mike, and her husband, Lowell. She is survived by her sister Deborah and husband, Eric, of Boston; son Steve and his wife, Jane, of Minneapolis; son Bruce and his wife, Suzie, of Harrisburg, S.D.; daughter Lori Storr and her husband, Mark, of Ankeny; daughter Stacy Meyer and her husband, Zeke, of Storm Lake; and son Tom and his wife, Resa, of Shelton, WA, plus ten grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister-in-law, Gracia Forney, as well as many beloved nieces and nephews.

Pat's family would like to offer our sincere thanks to the entire care team at Methodist Manor in Storm Lake...you have been a blessing. If you'd like to make a memorial contribution in Pat's honor, please direct it to your local blood bank, or better yet, donate a pint of blood. During her lifetime, Pat gave more than ten-gallons.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **10.** 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - Storm Lake
1615 W Milwaukee Ave,
Storm Lake, IA 50588
(712) 732-1911
jensenfuneralhomes@gmail.com
<https://www.fratzkejensen.com>

Funeral Mass

JUL **11.** 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church -- Storm Lake
320 Seneca Street
Storm Lake, IA

Tribute Wall



“ *Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Patricia Jane Aldrich*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - July 09, 2024 at 04:50 PM

VS

“ *Viktorija S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Patricia Jane Aldrich.*

Viktorija S. - July 11, 2024 at 01:18 AM

JH

“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



Jensen Funeral Homes - July 10, 2024 at 12:29 PM

SM

*Debbie,
I am so sorry. I have so many fond memories of Pat. When my mom would leave me at your house with your mom, Pat and Diana loved to feed me peanut butter just to watch me shudder! When your mom was on bed rest when pregnant with you, they came home from school one day and showed her a loose thread. She pulled and pulled, and they finally showed her a spool of thread. I hope you are doing ok.
Love,
Susan (Unkel) Mundy*

Susan Mundy - July 10, 2024 at 08:11 PM

JP

“ *Jennifer Peters lit a candle in memory of Patricia Aldrich*



Jennifer Peters - July 09, 2024 at 08:28 PM

LF

“ *Love, Rachelle Carlson-Oien and Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Patricia Jane Aldrich.*



Love, Rachelle Carlson-Oien and Family - July 09, 2024 at 03:44 PM



“ 90 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - July 09, 2024 at 12:45 PM

BB

“ *Bob Baschke lit a candle in memory of Patricia Aldrich*



Bob Baschke - July 09, 2024 at 10:02 AM