



Mrs. Patricia Pauline (Bulger) Bell Phillips

January 13, 1933 - October 31, 2022

*****ATTENTION FRIENDS & EXTENDED FAMILY---IN LIEU OF FLOWERS, DONATIONS CAN BE MADE "IN MEMORY OF PATRICIA BELL (BULGER) PHILLIPS" TO EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS:

ST. MARTIN OF TOURS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
2010 Nichols Road - Kalamazoo, MI. 49004

NORTHSIDE ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
C/O Mattie Jordan-Woods-Executive Director
612 North Park Street
Kalamazoo, MI. 49007

****PLEASE CONSIDER THIS REQUEST INSTEAD OF SENDING FLOWERS****

****NOTE: ST. MARTIN OF TOURS EPISCOPAL CHURCH IS HOSTING A CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE FOR THE FAMILY OF PATRICIA P. (BULGER) BELL PHILLIPS ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2022.

****PLEASE SEE SERVICE & LOCATION INFORMATION BELOW

*****WHEN ENTERING THE CHURCH: MASKS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING ARE STILL REQUIRED. THE CHURCH WILL PROVIDE HAND SANITIZER WHEN ENTERING THE BUILDING.

*****If you have any questions, please contact us at: (269) 342-1000

The Obituary

Patricia Pauline (Bulger) Bell Phillips (Pat) peacefully passed on October 31, 2022. Pat was the fifth of six children born to Idella Atkins and Horace Ward Bulger in Chicago, Illinois on January 13, 1933. She grew up on the South Side of Chicago where she attended the Betsy Ross Elementary and Englewood High Schools. She would later join

her older brother Harold William Bulger, Sr. and his family in Tacoma, Washington, where she completed her high school education. She attended Christ the Mediator Lutheran Church in Chicago, where she accepted Christ at an early age. Pat was preceded in death by her 5 siblings (Mildred Beatrice, Harold William, Charles Edward, Josephine Leah, and Horace Ward Bulger).

At the time of her passing, Pat was married to Dr. Romeo Eldridge Phillips. Pat and Romeo were wed on January 18, 2003, in Portage, Michigan. Romeo and Pat first met as children in Chicago, Illinois. At that time, Romeo was a classmate and friend of Pat's older sister, Josephine Bulger Lewis, and they lived one block away from each other. Pat shared with her sister that she had a crush on Romeo, but given the age difference, it was cute, but of course it just remained a childhood crush. Years later, both Romeo and Patricia would marry their respective spouses, each having their own beautiful children.

In 2002, both now long single, (Romeo widowed and Pat divorced), they would reconnect after a chance meeting at Pat's younger brother Horace's home during a small family gathering. Romeo had been invited by Pat's brother Horace. After a series of jokes, they connected, the magic happened, and they were married six months later. Pat would move to Portage and join her siblings, Harold, Sr., Josephine, and Horace, all of whom had made a sibling vow to live in the same city where they would take care of each other.

The union of Pat and Romeo resulted in the uniting of two wonderful extended families which started with Chicago childhood roots and later reconnected in Portage, Michigan. At the time, Romeo was a retired Professor Emeritus at Kalamazoo College.

Pat was the perfect combination of brains, beauty, and community. Pat was Director of the DEED program in Chicago in 2000 and at that time, had amassed over 20 years of economic development experience, which included being a Project Coordinator for the Douglas Development Corporation, Executive Director of the Lawndale Local Development Corporation, and numerous other Committees. She was also active in the City of Chicago with CANDO, the Chicago Association of Neighborhood Development Organizations, where she worked with city politicians and community activists. It was there that she met and worked with a young activist named Barack Obama, who would later become President Barack Obama. They worked on a project to eliminate lead paint from the walls of an Altgeld Gardens Homes housing project. She was also instrumental in getting a major retail chain to open a store on the South Side of Chicago.

Pat was also active in the Kalamazoo/Portage, area where she was instrumental in getting a small shopping center to include a full service grocery store as part of the Northside

Community revitalization efforts. This was important because the area was a food desert and local residents did not have access to a grocery store. Pat's brother, the late Harold Bulger, Sr. was on the Board of Northside Community and when they needed a development expert, Harold recommended that they talk to Pat who had years of development experience in Chicago. Through that introduction, Pat was engaged, and her expertise in development helped to make the grocery store development a reality. (Previously, retailers did not believe a store of this type could be profitable in a community like the Northside). The grocery store is currently called the Park Street Market (formerly known as the Felpausch Market). The success of this initiative brought other small retail businesses into the Northside neighborhood.

Pat was a lover of books and was a member of the Novel Bunch book readers club. She and Romeo loved to travel and took many trips domestically and abroad. They were looking forward to a combined celebration of their marriage of 20 years, Pat's (90th) birthday and Romeo's (95th) birthday in April, 2023.

Pat is survived by her son, Jeffrey Bell and daughter-in-law, Faye Bell; 6 grandchildren, Alexis, Nicolas, Nicole, Jeffrey Jr., Johnathan, and Christian; 2 nieces, Dr. Stephanie Bulger Oliver (Glenn) and Vivian Lewis Lambert (Alvin); 3 nephews, Attorney Harold Bulger, Jr. (Sandra), Mark Bulger (Jamie), and Ronald Lewis (Doris); special grandniece, Rev. Dr. Kimberly Lewis Davis (Mark) and grandnephew, Attorney Harold "Tres" Bulger, III (Danielle); cousin, Elania Day, several other cousins, and grandnieces and nephews; 2 step children, Arthur Camara (Fadu) and Pam Golson; 2 stepchildren, Arthur Camara (Fadu) and Pam Golson; step grandchildren, Aaron Golson, Brian Golson, Dia Camara, Jaxson Camara, Abiola Camara, Deloris Folade Camara, Kemi Camara, Ayofemi Camara and Korede Camara and several very special friends.

Pat will be long remembered by her friends and family as sincere and candid. She was smart, strikingly beautiful and sophisticated. Her demeanor was calm and reassuring and she loved her family to no end. She made it her passion to continue the work shared with her siblings of researching the Bulger family history. Today, Patricia, we bid you farewell but not goodbye, as you rest peacefully in God's arms.

Previous Events

A Memorial Service In Loving Memory Of

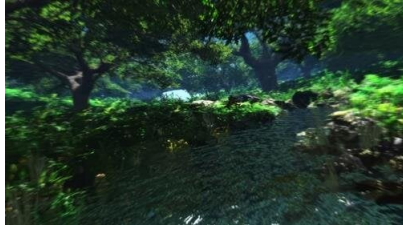
NOV 12. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Martin of Tours Episcopal Church
2010 Nichols Road
Kalamazoo, MI 49004

Tribute Wall



“ Harper Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Patricia Pauline (Bulger) Bell Phillips



Harper Funeral Home - November 05, 2022 at 02:03 PM

DO

Can't express how much I'll miss my dear friend. We shared so many happy times with our families and other friends, traveled together, and spent hours on conversation, reminiscing about our childhoods and experiences in Chicago. Pat was truly special.

Donna Odom - November 05, 2022 at 04:33 PM

CD

My condolences to the family. I am Carl Davis, the brother of Faye Bell. My wife's name is Patricia but I call her Pat. We are all family with so many similarities!!

Carl Davis - November 06, 2022 at 10:38 AM

GS

My condolences to the family. I will always remember her loveliness and her neatness and how lovely she and Romeo looked together. Such a gracious lady.

Gersteen Sherrod - November 14, 2022 at 11:46 AM

CS

I'm so sad about Pat's passing, Such a lovely and intelligent lady. My condolences go out to Romeo and the entire family. God called another angel home. Love Cal Street

caldin street - November 14, 2022 at 09:33 PM



“ Mrs. Patricia Pauline (Bulger) Bell Phillips

October 23, 2023 at 06:06 AM



“ Mrs. Patricia Pauline (Bulger) Bell Phillips

October 06, 2023 at 10:42 AM

JS

“ Mom, I am forever grateful to God for you being my mother. You were always there for me. I will remember our long talks, the walks we would take, the Christmas vacations, the dinners that were always waiting when I would come home and so much more. You exposed me to so much of what the world had to offer. You made sure I had a great life. You were my best friend. I love you and I will miss you.

Your son,
Jeffrey Paul Bell, Sr.



Jeffrey P. Bell, Sr. - November 16, 2022 at 06:32 PM

FB

“ Patricia Bell Phillips “Mom” was not just my mother-in-law, but my bonus mother. She was kind, encouraging, totally supportive and loved our family unconditionally. I will miss our long Saturday morning talks, our visits and our special holidays together. There are so many memories I will cherish forever. I loved her, I thank God for her and I will miss Her!

Faye Bell

Faye Bell - November 16, 2022 at 06:27 PM

JS

“ My condolence, wishing the Phillips family the best! John C McMillon Sr

John C McMillon Sr - November 12, 2022 at 09:19 AM

BK

“ Romeo, our deepest sympathies for the loss of Pat. May God comfort you and your family knowing what a beautiful, special lady that was who walked with God. We miss you, but please know you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Bill and Carol Kloosterman

Bill Kloosterman - November 11, 2022 at 05:40 PM

MA

“ I personally would like to say I will miss her because of the conversations that we always had and she always gave good advice and just seemed so knowledgeable. Mrs. Phillips was always so calm and relaxed even with the all of the bad that had risen. I will miss you and may you rest in peace. XOXO

-Marion



Marion - November 07, 2022 at 11:52 AM

EH

“ To Dr. Phillips, Arthur, Faye and to all family members:

May peace, comfort and grace be forever with you. Pat was a wonderful person with a gentle soul. Her elegance and quiet dignity were evident by all who met and knew her. May her grace and love sustain you through the difficult days. As my wonderful friend, she will forever be close to my heart.

Eleanor Harris

Eleanor Harris - November 05, 2022 at 03:04 PM

BW

My wish is that God will comfort the family as only He can. Bettye Walker

Bettye Walker - November 11, 2022 at 07:39 PM

JW

“ Dear Romeo, Arthur and family and Pat’s relatives whom I have not met,

May God grant you peace as we have all been blessed to know such a gentle, caring woman as Pat. I never saw her without that beautiful smile. Her loving generosity drew you into her – she shared family recipes for Romeo’s favorite dishes, red beans and rice, jambalaya, and gumbo; she shared memories good and not-so-good of places where she had lived before coming to Michigan. She was intelligent, but so humble.

We will miss Pat, but we are so thankful to have shared a piece of life with her.

Jonnie Wilhite

Jonnie R Wilhite - November 04, 2022 at 11:34 AM

SC

“Miss Pat.” Impressive, a gentle force, with an undeniable presence. One, of few, whom I have admired. From the first day I met her until the last time we spoke, she treated me like family. I will always remember her kindness. A trailblazer has been called to rest. May God grant Professor Romeo, Jeff, Faye, Lex and her family peace. FSC.

suzanne C - November 03, 2022 at 06:40 PM

DB

A truer angel on earth. Same today as was 40 or so years ago when we worked together. Didn't speak but a couple times a year, but always good catching up on our lives. Love you Ms. Bell to exfinity and beyond. You will always be in my heart. Truly, your dee dee.!!!

Delores brown - January 17, 2023 at 03:46 PM

DB

Condolences to your family, the memories will live on forever with them as will with me. Love you girl !

Delores brown - January 17, 2023 at 03:48 PM