



## Patricia "Patti" M. Rizza

February 9, 1956 - October 5, 2020

Patricia "Patti" M. Rizza, 64, of West Dundee, passed away early Monday morning, Oct. 5, 2020, at her home.

Patti was born in Chicago, Illinois on Feb. 9, 1956, the daughter of Joseph and Helen (Corcoran) Wallon. On Nov. 18, 2009, she married Gerald "Jerry" Rizza in Geneva. Patti was a long-time member of the Zion Lutheran Church in Marengo. She was the owner of 'In Its Place', a personal organizing company. She loved the outdoors and was an avid golfer and snow skier; very athletic and adventurous. Patti loved helping and taking care of people and was a very good friend to all she knew. Her fondest memories were taking her grandchildren to parks, libraries, and museums. She was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother, and will be deeply missed by all who knew her, including her beloved pets, Ace and Riz.

Surviving are her husband, Jerry; children, Dave (Jillian) Earnest, and Patrick Earnest; grandchildren, Teagan, Fallon, & Brady Earnest; sister, Colleen Jones; brother, Joseph Wallon Jr.; surrogate mother, Arlene Pagels; step-children, Jennie Rizza, Megan (T.J.) Liebetrau, John (Jessica) Rizza; step-grandchildren, Joseph Rizza, Cora & Grace Topf, Kenzie & Aiden Liebetrau, Jack & Evelyn Rizza; and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

Patricia was preceded in death by her parents and sisters, Helen Maureen Gurney and Cathy Jo Pask.

Memorial Service will be held at a later date.

# Comments

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“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Patricia "Patti" M. Rizza.



October 24, 2020 at 03:32 PM

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“ I met Patti around 1981 when she moved to "Denny Court." We quickly became friends. Patti was the type that would always offer support and listen if you were having a problem, and she would always try to help you no matter what. We had a lot of fun together and she was the first person I golfed with. Being very nervous, she would tell me just to get out there and hit the ball.

One year on my 40th birthday (28 years ago), she snuck into my garage the day before my birthday (after I had gotten home from work), and put a poster on the back of my car that said "Honk at me, it's my birthday and I am 40 today." Of course, I did not walk around the back of my car when leaving for work, and I could not figure out why everyone was honking at me (for 11 miles)." That was Patti! She was a great cook and if you wanted to get something done, call Patti. She was a go-getter. Just mention it to her, and she was there to nudge you along and help in any way she could.

One time I had 2 tickets to see Paul McCartney and Wings with my sister. Last-minute, my sister had an emergency and could not make it. As I was backing out of the driveway (to go alone because I was not going to waste those tickets), I saw Patti pull into her driveway. Patti needed to get a sitter, made a call, and said "my girlfriend invited me to see Paul McCarthy--JoAnne what did he sing?" I said, "just come with me, I guarantee that you will recognize something!" We had a great time and laughed about that many times.

Patti's death taught me something about dear friends. Circumstances change, people move, people get divorced, people get married, kids grow up, and life goes on. When these changes happen, sometimes we let good friends fade away. Not intentionally, but life gets in the way. We have Facebook and that allows us to keep in touch at a superficial level.

I was able to visit with Patti at the end of September. I cannot remember the last time we spoke. We had a wonderful visit and reminisced about all the fun we had in the past (and Paul McCartney). When I was driving home, I felt guilty for not reaching out and connecting before. That was a lesson I learned about reaching out to good friends that I have lost touch with. Patti was very brave about her diagnosis, I just wished I had picked up the phone sooner. Thank you Patti for your friendship and your lesson.

**JoAnne Vaughn** - October 15, 2020 at 03:04 PM



“ Hi JoAnne. Thank you for sharing those memories about my mother. My heart is empty right now but they helped me find a smile.

**Patrick Earnest** - October 20, 2020 at 09:55 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Megan Liebetrau** - October 08, 2020 at 05:19 PM