



Patricia Louise Olson Gonyea

December 2, 1933 - December 2, 2021

Patricia Louise Olson Gonyea— best known as “Mimi” — was born December 2nd, 1933, in Sullivan County, Indiana. She passed away December 2nd, 2021, on her 88th birthday, in Memphis, Tennessee. Pat was the eldest daughter and second-born in a family of twelve children. As the child of a coal miner and third-generation immigrant from Sweden, Patty brought success and pride to the Olson family in studying to become a nurse. She graduated from Union Hospital School of Nursing in 1955 where she received special recognition for her outstanding work as a medical nurse. She then went on to work at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in New York City and the Veteran’s Hospital in Indianapolis, Indiana. During her years in Germantown, Tennessee, she worked a variety of nursing jobs while also raising her children.

Mimi was best known for her love of reading, her needle-work, the best dang sausage gravy you could ever taste, and her homemade sourdough bread. She showed her love to others through acts of service. As a big sister and second mom (aka “The Godmother”), mother, grandmother, and nurse, Mimi was certifiably a master caretaker. She played a very important role in the lives of her grandchildren always encouraging them to pursue their dreams. When she wasn’t looking after others, Pat liked to spend her free time traveling the world. She and her husband, “Big Ed,” visited more than 20 countries on 5 different continents.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband of 46 years, Dr. Edward Francis Gonyea; her parents, Carl and Edith Olson; and her siblings: Dan Olson, Berndt Olson, Marilyn Olson Brown, and Bill Olson.

She leaves behind her four children: Greg Gonyea (Kelly), Bruce Gonyea (Fiona), Larisa Farnsworth (Eric), and Carol Wingfield (Ben); her eight grandchildren: Zach Gonyea, Samuel and Claire Farnsworth, Thomas and Sophie Gonyea, and Abby, Matt, and Kate Wingfield; her siblings: Marlene Turner, Mary DuBois, Linda Monroe, Aletha Robinson, Carla McCammon, Mike Olson, and Edie DeBoo; as well as many beloved in-laws, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

In her own words, Patty “would like to be remembered as friendly... and a little bit funny!”

Her memorial service will be held at Memorial Park Funeral Home on Saturday, December 11th, 2021, at 2 P.M. with visitation beginning at 1:30 P.M. In lieu of flowers, please consider sending a donation in her name to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

To view the online memorial tribute video. Click the link below to view.

<https://www.tributeslides.com/tributes/show/LY9J96R9DWRP6JT7>

To view Patricia Louise Olson Gonyea's services online, please click the link: <http://webcast.funeralvue.com/events/viewer/65007/hash:4270134316AE9342>

Cemetery

Memorial Park Mausoleum

5668 Poplar Ave.

Memphis, TN, 38119

Events

DEC **Visitation** 01:30PM - 02:00PM

11

Memorial Park Funeral Home

5668 Poplar Ave, Memphis, TN, US, 38119

DEC **Memorial Service** 02:00PM

11

Memorial Park Funeral Home

5668 Poplar Ave, Memphis, TN, US, 38119

Comments



“ A webcast video has been added.



Memorial Park Funeral Home and Cemetery - December 09, 2021 at 10:32 AM



“ my heart is heavy.as buzz an i are preparing watch sister pats service online. so many memories pop up. gonna miss you..sister, mentor, friend, roommate, travel companion and so much more. she truly earned her status of matriarch. Buzz n I send love and peace Bruce, Lara and Carol and your families. ,

linda buzek - December 11, 2021 at 02:17 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Patricia Louise Olson Gonyea.



December 10, 2021 at 10:14 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Patricia Louise Olson Gonyea.



December 09, 2021 at 12:30 PM



“ Notes for Patti's family:

Our sincere condolences to the whole Olson Gonyea family. I know them well. Patti and I were friends at Union High School. We graduated on Thursday and began work on Monday at the Indiana State House where she had gotten me a job through a teacher. We moved to Indy and lived in apartment on Woodlawn in Fountain Square. Later we moved to Speedway to help a friend from Dugger care for her baby. Patti worked for BMV and I for the Auditor's Office all summer, earning tuition for Union Hospital Nursing School in Terre Haute where we roomed together again. We have been in touch on birthdays and Christmas and occasional visit. I will miss her. I was in the Olson overnight when in school and they were quite a family of workers who were admired for their tenacity, intelligence, perseverance and togetherness. I met all of them but mostly Pat, Dan and Marlene. My sister Marilyn graduated with Dan. Patti got me another job filling vending machines at Union Hospital. Morning hours were difficult but she insisted and we needed the money. The night I met my husband (of 69 years), Patti and I were together and I tease him saying you could have gone to sleep on Patti's shoulder instead of mine. Instead she went with my husband's best friend for a long time (Bob Mowery-passed). We had great times together. Patti was my maid of honor May 31, 1952. We are sending money to St. Judes in her name.

Wally & Myra (Phillips) Neal

Condolences from Union High School Class of 1951, Dugger, Indiana

Myra Neal - December 08, 2021 at 02:35 PM



“ Patty was my oldest sister and she was one in a million. I will miss her and our weekly or sometimes two or three a week phone calls so much. Pat and Berndt always tried to out do one another bragging about who had the best looking grandkids!



Mary Olson DuBois - December 07, 2021 at 12:42 AM



“ Patty was more than a big sister to me like all the rest of my older siblings. Being the little guy in the family I got tons of attention. As I got older I can remember Pat and Ed coming to ballgames and many family get togethers. They were always great hosts when we would visit their home and always cooked something special not to mention lots of good beverages. Patty was always there for me when I needed someone to reach out to. I've said it before and will say it again I've been one of the luckiest guys in the world to be part of the Olson family.

Love, Mike

michael olson - December 07, 2021 at 11:10 AM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Patricia Louise Olson Gonyea.



December 06, 2021 at 11:37 PM



“ Pat was a wonderful sister, mom and grandmother. She was always so good to our mom and dad and all her siblings. She never lost interest in this large family of ours. We will miss you so much. Love , sister Aletha

Aletha Robinson - December 06, 2021 at 04:37 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Patricia Louise Olson Gonyea.



December 06, 2021 at 04:26 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Patricia Louise Olson Gonyea.



December 06, 2021 at 03:56 PM