



John Patrick "Pat" O'Connell

May 4, 1939 - February 26, 2011

John Patrick "Pat" O'Connell, 71, Topeka KS, passed away Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2011. Pat was born May 4, 1939 in Coffeyville KS, the son of the late Thomas Harold and Garnet Caroline O'Connell. Pat attended Holy Name Catholic Grade School and Conception Abbey, Conception MO. He was a graduate of the University of Kansas with a major in Music. While a student, Pat played in the KU Marching Band and was a member of Phi Kappa Theta Fraternity. He earned his Masters Degree from Emporia State Teachers College, Emporia KS. Pat taught music in Boise ID and was the Choral and Band Director at Seaman High School in Topeka. He was an insurance agent with American United Life Insurance Co. in Topeka. For several years, Pat joined the Pete Fountain Marching Band at Mardi Gras in New Orleans. After his retirement, he worked part time at the Barnes and Noble Book Store in Topeka. Pat was very active in the Topeka community. He was a founding member of the Topeka St. Patrick's Day Committee and for many years was involved with planning the Parade, the entertainment and added to the festivities with his beautiful Irish tenor voice. Pat is survived by his brother, William O'Connell, Capt. USN (Ret.) and his wife, Philomena, of Clifton VA; his sister, Virginia Seidel of Coffeyville; and nieces and nephews. A Memorial Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Sat. at Holy Name Church in Coffeyville. Inurnment will follow at Calvary Cemetery, Coffeyville. Memorial contributions are suggested to Holy Name School, Coffeyville, sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Rd, Topeka KS 66614.

Tribute Wall



“ *John Patrick "Pat" O'Connell*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *I learned of Pat's death just today in the TEMPLE--which is the national Phi Kappa Theta magazine. I was saddened to hear of his passing, and want to extend my sincere sympathy to his family and friends. I knew Pat in the 1970s when I was at KU and lived in the fraternity. Pat was a diehard supporter of our fraternity--with a big smile and a laugh, and could always be counted on to support us. May he rest in peace.*

Tony Middleton - May 03, 2011 at 07:04 PM



“ *I am very sorry to hear of Pat's recent passing. I read this today in our Phi Kappa Theta Temple magazine. He was our Chapter Advisor during my years at KU 86-90. He will always be remembered for his laughter and commitment to the Phi Kap brotherhood. I had a great experience as a Phi Kap at KU and thank him for being a part of it.*

Mark Amick - April 25, 2011 at 09:45 PM

EW

“ I am very sorry to hear of the passing of Pat. Pat and I were fraternity brothers at KU and in the spring of 1965 I lived with Pat in Topeka while I student taught at Topeka West HS. Pat was a good friend and a very generous person. He was donated many hours as the Chapter Adviser to the Phi Kappa Theta house to make it a better place for many KU students. He will be missed.
Ed White
KU 1965

Ed White - March 01, 2011 at 11:38 AM

JW

“ I was so sorry to hear from Don that Pat had passed. I remember growing up with Pat at our home on Saturday nights. It was Gunsmoke, Have Gun will Travel etc. Pat would have to watch them with us and we would eat popcorn or home-made pizzas. His laugh is one I won't forget! It is a shame the O'Connel's are gone from Coffeyville. We had some really good memories of our families and the laundry! My Aunt Garnet and Uncle Harold were very special people and I miss them and now also Pat! God grant eternal rest to you Pat -Cousin Julia Lind Wadkins

Julia Lind Wadkins - February 28, 2011 at 06:34 PM

BR

“ Pat was an AUL agent when I started with The Price Agency in '87. He really cared about his clients and was a big believer in whole life. It's been a pleasure to serve his clientele since his retirement from the insurance business. He had fun every day and was a delight to be around. His laugh would light up the agency during meetings!

Bill Rogenmoser - February 26, 2011 at 10:23 AM

LB

“ I was associated with Pat in his days at AUL. A very professional agent. He was concerned about his clients and wanted to serve them in the best possible way. The many many hours and days I spent with him will always be remembered.

LeRoy Brungardt - February 26, 2011 at 09:57 AM

SS

“ Pat.....may you Rest in Peace. I worked with Pat at AUL when he was a new agent....what a joy he was. Each morning he came in, smiling and ready to face the day. I would hear him singing as he did his paperwork....I just can't remember a day he wasn't smiling.

I remember driving by his house several years ago, I'd always honk and wave.....I'll lift a frosty mug in his honor on St. Patty's Day.

Thoughts and prayers for his family, he so loved to get home to see the nieces and nephews. May the many memories help you through this difficult time.

Susan Swalwell - February 25, 2011 at 07:55 PM

BK

“ Sincere sympathy to Mr. Oconnell's family. One of my most cherished memories in high school was during music! Peace be with you!

Beth Welch Kelley - February 25, 2011 at 04:26 PM

HD

“ To all who know Pat: He was one of a kind. We first met singing - barbershopping, he was the tenor with the "Shamrocks Quartet" and why not? The years go by and we would chat with each other at the barber-shop, yes, getting our hair cut. He will be missed. Bless his family.
Herschel

Herschel L. Stroud, DDS - February 25, 2011 at 04:18 PM

MS

“ I remember Pat from the AUL days. My father Otto was the General MGR of AUL and I would always work (very little) over breaks and summer. Pat was a singing fool in the office and we all loved to hear his voice. God Bless you all.
Mary T. Schnellbacher-Decker

Mary T. Schnellbacher-Decker - February 25, 2011 at 08:48 AM