



Mary Pat Gehr

May 26, 1931 - February 8, 2022

Mary Patricia “Pat” Gehr, 90, passed away February 8, 2022, at Brewster Place Retirement Community. Pat was born May 26, 1931, to Mary Rose and John Floyd Jenkins.

Pat grew up in Miami County. As a child she read everything she could get her hands on, adopted every stray animal she could find, and spent a good deal of time keeping her younger brothers in line. In spite of enduring the hardships of the Great Depression, her mother saved enough money to send her to Ursuline Academy in Paola. It was there that she was taken under the wing of an intuitive Nun who could see that being a secretary, as was the aspiration of most girls at the time, was definitely not for Pat. Empowered by Sister’s inspiration, Pat decided she wanted a career that was challenging and allowed her to help people, so she became a nurse.

Pat graduated from St. Mary’s Hospital School of Nursing in 1952. She spent her early years as an industrial nurse for Fluor Corporation before settling into her true calling: psychiatric nursing. She worked at Osawatomie State Hospital and then after moving to Topeka she worked as a Supervising Nurse for the Topeka State Hospital and at the Menninger Clinic (yes, at the same time because “why would you only have one job that you love when you could have two?”) Pat was known to be a tough and no-nonsense boss, but she was also kind and truly cared about those who worked for her. First and foremost,

though, she cared about the people they were there to serve.

As a young woman, Pat was never keen on getting married, but when she met John Gehr, that all changed. John's kindness and wit quickly won her over. They married, had one daughter, Zoe, and spent 23 wonderful years together. They enjoyed their Bella Vista vacation home, golfing, playing cards with friends and throwing great parties (really great parties). After John passed in 1982, Pat was introduced to fellow widower, Fred Morehead. They married in 1986, and a second great chapter began for the girl who never really wanted to get married. Pat adopted Fred's family as her own and enjoyed her growing family of children and grandchildren. Pat and Fred enjoyed 26 years together, traveling extensively, canning the fruits and vegetables from their garden, and continuing to play cards. He died in 2012. Pat was a proud democrat and loved debating politics with her two republican husbands (she used to say that when republican boys wanted to have fun, they married democrat girls).

Pat's passion for service was guided by her deep faith. She was member of Most Pure Heart of Mary Parish and served the church community in many ways. One of her greatest joys was working with Sister Ann and the Ministry to the Aging, where she could share her skills as a nurse and her passion for helping those in need.

Pat's life was filled with adventure, love, laughter and service. Even after dementia robbed her of so much, she kept a razor-sharp wit that always gave those around her a reason to smile. She will be missed by many.

Pat is survived by her children, Zoe Gehr, Topeka, Terri Taylor (Edward), Silver Lake, Tom Morehead, Topeka, and Tim Morehead (Mami), San Diego; her brother, Bill Jenkins (Marilyn) Iola; nine grandchildren, Emily Taylor, Erin Taylor, Rochelle Van der Merwe, Michelle Wilson, Dani Renner, Christina Grantham, Tim Morehead, Tommy Morehead, and Tyler Morehead; and

eleven great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her daughter, Kay Hesse and her brother, Gerald Jenkins.

The family will receive friends from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Monday, February 21, 2022, at the Cultural Arts Center at Brewster Place (Evergreens Building). Rosary will be prayed at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, February 22, 2022, at Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church, where Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Inurnment will follow in West Lawns Memorial Gardens. Masks are required (nurse Pat would say "JUST TAKE THE JAB"). Memorial contributions may be made to the Ministry to the Aging at Most Pure Heart of Mary Church and sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka, KS 66614. Condolences may be sent online to www.kevinbrennanfamily.com

Cemetery Details

West Lawn Memorial Gardens

I-70 & Auburn Road
Topeka, KS 66615

Previous Events

Receive Friends

FEB 21. 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM (CT)

Cultural Arts Center at Brewster Place
1205 SW 29th Street
Topeka, KS 66611

Rosary

FEB 22. 9:30 AM (CT)

Most Pure Heart of Mary Church
3601 SW 17th Street
Topeka, KS 66604

Mass of Christian Burial

FEB 22. 10:00 AM (CT)

Most Pure Heart of Mary Church
3601 SW 17th Street
Topeka, KS 66604

Tribute Wall



“ *Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mary Pat Gehr*



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - February 21, 2022 at 10:46 AM



“ *Mary Pat Gehr*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *SO SORRY TO HEAR OF PAT'S PASSING. SHE WAS A VERY NEAT LADY AND WE HAVE FOND MEMORIES OF HER, ESPECIALLY WITH LARRY'S MOTHER, GERTRUDE FLINN, WHO WORKED WITH HER AT TOPEKA STATE HOSPITAL. OUR THOUGHTS ARE WITH HER FAMILY AT THIS TIME. LARRY AND MARILYN FLINN*

LARRY AND MARILYN FLINN - February 22, 2022 at 10:22 AM

DM

“ I am saddened to hear of Pat’s passing. Pat and I worked together at TSH for many years. She was a Section Nurse when I became a Section Director. “ She taught me the ropes “. She was devoted to her work,had a tremendous amount of experience in both psychiatric nursing and management.She was engaging,kind and very wise. She always had our patients best interés at heart. My thoughts are with Zoe and her family.

I will miss her.

David Montaña M D

David Montano - February 21, 2022 at 01:35 PM

FS

“ As noted by Geri, my husband and I also worked with Pat at Topeka State Hospital. Russ and I had just had a chat a few weeks ago reminiscing about some of the folks we had worked with wondering about them and we brought up Pat's name. The photo (within the video) of a gathering with some of the other TSH nurses brought back memories of all of the connections we had at TSH, including Pat, of course. I always admired her practical and no nonsense approach to issues that arose. As a "seasoned" Psych nurse, I learned a lot from her. Was nice to learn more about her activities apart from the Hospital. Know that warm memories will help to sustain you during this time of loss for a life well lived. Russ Hunter and Fran Seymour-Hunter

Frances Seymour-Hunter - February 21, 2022 at 11:17 AM

AB

“ I knew Pat from when she worked as the weekend "house nurse" at Children's Division at Menninger. She was a natural with psychiatric patients, including children. She was always calm and soothing, and her sense of humor was readily accessible. Truly a wonderful human being. Annette Bartel, LSCSW

Annette Bartel - February 20, 2022 at 05:20 PM

GF

“ Pat and I worked together for years at TSH. She and I were married one week apart and had our children 3 months apart. I just had two babies. There was not much that we did not do together as nurses and some of it was scary and some hilarious. Losing Pat is like losing a sister that I never had.. Working with her made me a better nurse. She is probably organizing the hereafter right now. Go girl. Geraldine Fouts.

Geraldine Fouts - February 16, 2022 at 08:42 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mary Pat Gehr.



February 16, 2022 at 05:17 PM