



Patrick Douglas Packer

FEB 16, 1943 - DEC 12, 2020



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Events	Page 5
Tribute Wall	Page 6
Media	Page 14



Patrick Douglas Packer

FEB 16, 1943 - DEC 12, 2020

Patrick Douglas Packer of Grosse Pointe, Michigan passed away December 12, 2020. He was 77 when he left this Earth. Pat was the first-born child of Fred (“Bud”) and Dorothy (“Dot”) Packer (nee Gaul). He grew up in Detroit and the City always remained near to his heart – a love which he passed down to his children and grandchildren.

Pat became a Journeyman in 1968 and he worked as a Pattern and Model Maker for the automotive industry until he retired. Pat married the first love of his life, Suzanne Packer (nee Leyshock) in 1970. They moved to St. Clair Township in 1984. Pat and Suzy shared a love of horses and spent many hours on the homestead with their beloved Frankie (their Friesian horse/son).

Sadly, Suzy passed away in May 2008 after a battle with cancer. Pat continued to work the “farm” for many years and spent much of his time honing his Pickleball and Bridge skills. He was a determined player in both and enjoyed each immensely. Pat walked away with a sense of pride whenever he could tip the scale and beat one of his buddies.

In 2013, Pat met the second love of his life, Jeannie Fellows and shortly after he moved down to the City of Grosse Pointe. Pat and Jeannie took many trips together traveling across the United States, always having fun and living life to the fullest. Pat was the guy at a party who everyone wanted to be around – he would always have a joke at the ready (no matter the situation). Pat will be remembered by those who loved him as a warrior who never gave up; a father/grandfather who would move mountains for his kids; a companion who was always up for anything; a competitor with a temper, but who was always gracious, and a man with the biggest heart and kindest soul you could ever meet.

Pat is preceded in death by his wife, Suzanne Packer and his sister, Susan Walter. He is survived by his daughters, Bree (his son, Kurt) Hoski and Polly Packer; his



Obituary

Patrick Douglas Packer

FEB 16, 1943 - DEC 12, 2020

grandchildren Merrill and Emmet Hoski; his girlfriend, Jeannie Fellows; his brothers and sister Dan (Karen) Packer, Ken (Kathy) Packer and Pamela Packer; and many nieces, nephews, friends, family (Leyshock clan) and loved ones.

Cremation has taken place and a memorial service will be held at a later date at one of his all-time favourite places, The Pinery. Tribute contributions to honor Pat may be made to International Leonard Peltier Defense Committee or DFT/DSO. RIP

Poppa P ☹☹☹ To leave a message of comfort visit www.youngcolonial.com



Events

Patrick Douglas Packer

FEB 16, 1943 - DEC 12, 2020

Cemetery Details

 Cremation



Tribute Wall

Patrick Douglas Packer

FEB 16, 1943 - DEC 12, 2020



Ted Sweeney posted:

Although I knew Pat only briefly, he seemed a kind and thoughtful man. I only wish I'd known him better.

December 28 at 10:30 AM



Pamela Ann Packer posted:

Beautifully done Polly. This is a comprehensive and loving tribute.... thank you. And I can personally attest to Pat playing his guitar with full amps blaring. He woke me up more than once when we both had bedrooms upstairs on Parkland and he thought only he could hear his music. Not! He was pretty darn good, and I'd give anything to have him wake me up again. Come visit us Pat.

December 21 at 11:46 AM



Pamela Ann Packer lit a candle in honor of Patrick.

December 21 at 11:32 AM



Polly lit a candle in honor of Patrick.

December 21 at 9:21 AM





Tribute Wall

Patrick Douglas Packer

FEB 16, 1943 - DEC 12, 2020



Polly posted:

(Cont; from below....)Fun. Even the past 14 months, he was content, at peace and had a strong desire to live. In Oct. of last year, he was diagnosed with a rare kidney disease which recently progressed to stage 3. He wasn't going to stage for, so i guess Covid came first to make his exit sooner. His body became very weak after cont. hospitalizations, but his mind was still sharp. PDP was a warrior, like John Trudeau and Leonard Peltier. He never gave up. He would desire the same for everyone who was honored to know him. He is here with us still.You can remember him by living your life with pure freedom and love. By playing a variety of musica from Siouxie and the banshees, the clash, Rolling Stones, John prince, Neil young, Dylan to doo wop. He told me several time, "you can play this at my funeral"....a specific john trudell song. But for now, play a song by trudell called it is what it is.I am gathering his life up and putting it into cherished boxes in GPTE. Please let me know if I can save a momentous or a picture for you.Life is a cycle. Life is a balance. Yin Yang. Sun Moon.We had a special delivery when PDP came into our lives in 1943. Tonight, there is something I hope we can all view together under the sky. It is a scene that hasn't been witness since 1246 or something. If we are lucky, we will see a bright shining star on this winter solstice (Saturn and Jupiter orbiting). A rare occurrence. Once in our lifetime. Just like my dear dad.*A note of thanks to all who helped my father in every stage of his life. Most recently over the past diabolical year. My sis, Jeannie, all his buddies and P3, whose 46 years of ICU nursing helped me care for my dad cuz we weren't getting the deserved help/guidance/care from DMC...aka Detroit receiving no care - don't go there!Peace to Patrick

December 21 at 6:37 AM



Polly December 24 at 5:07 PM

Thank you for your recognition of our father, Jim, and for being a friend, comrade and artistic inspiration instructor to him and to us as time memory takes on a new form.Your dear amiga, p.a.



Jim Bloch December 22 at 8:25 AM

Polly and Bree, So sorry to hear of your dad's death. He was a unique, multi-dimensional person whose tastes in music and politics made him a rare comrade here in the exurbs. I fondly recall him taking me to the Magic Bag for my 50th birthday to see Dick Dale, the great daddy-o of the surf guitar, and the dude blew our minds. Death compresses time. I can see your parents laughing in my old kitchen like it was a month ago. I can see Pat and Jeannie walking on Second Street like it was yesterday. We'll all take him into the future. Love, Jim Bloch.



Bree Hoski December 21 at 6:49 PM

You said it all ❤️



Tribute Wall

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FEB 16, 1943 - DEC 12, 2020

PO

Polly posted:

Pops always said that life was just a movie. He really was a stellar actor in this life, akin to Cary Grant in my viewpoint. A quirky gentleman whom everyone adored and aspired to be. He was straight from film noir, one of his many passions (Man Ray esque style films and art too) that he discovered more of via the DFT ...Detroit film theater...Dad adored going to the DFT and viewing art on screen. This is where he discovered Pedro Almodovar, a Spanish director, you may know, who had a penchant for creating his films from the female perspective (at times, brutal). Dad was always learning, like an artist. And in turn, he was an uncanny teacher. Volver (to return), one of my moms fav Pedro films (with his muse Penelope Cruz) was a film i popped into, living in reality with my dad 14 months ago, now. Dad got sick and was in the hospital and I returned to take care of him. He was as headstrong as ever and pushed himself to the core to stay strong. Music, he also said was what kept him alive from a young age. Chuck Berry, Little Richard - doo wop. Great Balls of Fire!, dad had such a collection of 45's and 33's to play on his dad's Werlitzer jukebox back in the day. He took akin to learning guitar in the 70's-80's and played it loud with the amp connection. He also took out his energy playing hockey on a semi semi pro league in Southfield. He got his energy out and skill skated about deflecting many pucks and got skated over once, i recall. He has really lived life like a cat, even though they revolted him, but we still had them BC he wanted to please us. When one passion ended, another grew like a lotus flower. After hockey playing was out of target, he enjoyed traveling throughout MI and Ontario to acquire a plethora of hockey player signatures, several generations wide. I'd never been kissed by Gordie Howe if it wasn't for dad! Traveling to these events also gave dad the opportunity to visit friends and fam. Poppa P was a true emerald gem! Dad was an intellectual and many may not know he earned his BA from WMU in English, Jeannie and I agree, he would have made an excellent lawyer defending people. Instead, life directed him to become a model maker BC he was stabbed almost by a student and deterred. Signs. The year after what he called '67 Insurrection, he earned his pattern and machinist cert. Still, he remained to be an advocate for the working class. Not sure how long, but he was the union steward at the shop, maybe it was just Astro. We recall him and his briefcase returning home after dark. Like many kids, we didnt see dad in the am. Cuz h left at like 4:30 a.m. in one of his many road warriors. Still, he was such a gentleman and for some time, he would sell treats at his work that I made when i was a teen so i could make some jingles. As well, he filled himself up with so much energy to show his signs of love for us...from building a gargantuan treehouse on Negaunee, camping in the yard or at the Pinery, playing games, sports - being an all around goofball, always with a debonair or classy smile in his eyes. No one else like him. Pure golden heart. To honor my moms love of the pastoral life (she wanted to be a nun, for reals, in her youth) He sacrificed himself and moved to the farm. Lovely memories. He delved into projects from the animal farm to the Massey Ferguson (I was glad cuz he made me do the push mo...5 acres...), car and woodworking. As well, he made lots of amigos. He was akin to Michael Landon with me, a quiet man with many teachings. He had such a tremendous heart. He wouldn't let this break long after the tragic loss of his Suzy. But, he pulled himself up by his bootstraps and began weaving on the massive loom, kept busy with his pals playing bridge, PB and tennis. He met the second love of his live online, lady Jeannie, his muse. For the final two years of his existence here with us, he moved to GPTE to be closer to his love. He had developed more

December 15 at 7:17 AM



Tribute Wall

Patrick Douglas Packer

FEB 16, 1943 - DEC 12, 2020

MS

Marie Schwanitz posted:

Hey, Pat, thanks for the memories. Will always remember you. Marie Schwanitz

December 21 at 6:05 AM

SH

Susan Higbie posted:

A special man!!!Susan Higbie

December 20 at 12:42 PM

RA

Roma Anderson posted:

PatWe made a great Bridge partnership team. Always enjoyed your humor. I still have the \$2.00 bill you gave me from our winning game.Rest in Peace my friend.Roma +

December 20 at 12:23 PM

AK

Andy Knapp posted:

Pat was my introduction to PB! I was taking tennis lessons in St. Clair with you Polly and you spoke of your dad playing PB. You shared my phone number with your Dad and he called me to explain the game and location for playing. Well, the rest is history. Always enjoyed Pat's presence on the court as it was a lively addition to our play.My sincere condolences for your loss.Andy Knapp

December 20 at 9:58 AM

JL

Jack Lawrence posted:

Pat always had a friendly smile and a mischievous grin on his face when he came to play bridge or when he just walked through to say "Hi" on his way to play pickle.He even remained cheerful when he was going through rehab. We will truly miss him.Jack Lawrence

December 20 at 9:55 AM



Tribute Wall

Patrick Douglas Packer

FEB 16, 1943 - DEC 12, 2020



Mark Maher shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.



Words cannot express how sorry I am for our loss, Pat was my oldest and dearest friend. His outgoing personality and positive outlook was a blessing to me. One thing I could always count on was Pat being Pat, brutally honest, a great and slightly twisted sense of humor, compassionate, and true to who he was. Pat was a force of nature, his energy level was not only high but also contagious, I can't tell you how many times just talking to him on the phone he gave me a much needed boost. He is already profoundly missed! I'll see you on the other side my friend...

December 18 at 4:54 AM



Kenneth Gutow January 5 at 11:23 AM

I hope I am not too late to add a comment. I got to know Pat on the pickleball court but I sure would have liked to be with him on the bridge court also. I was in charge at Assumption for PB so I got to see him every day he made it. Because of Pat's personality and ability everybody wanted to play with him. I really enjoyed having him around and so did everybody else. Ken Gutow



Michele Stiller December 18 at 8:03 AM

Pat was "my people". A rebel and an advocate for the underdog as well a patron of the arts. He was always so supportive. I will miss his energy. I will forever regret declining that last lunch invitation reasoning that there will be another. Tomorrow is never promised. Take every opportunity to be with the ones you love even if it's virtually. It may be the last time. All my love to Bree and Polly



Tribute Wall

Patrick Douglas Packer

FEB 16, 1943 - DEC 12, 2020



Pam Packer posted:

Polly, Bree, Kurt, Merrill and Emmet, My heart hurts with yours as we each feel the loss of this incredible man, each in our own way. He was father, Poppa, brother, friend, and so much more. But what he always was, first and foremost, was himself. Always himself, comfortable with who he was and never trying to be anything else, like it or not. And we liked it. Loved it. I will miss his smile, his goofy faces and wry humor, his optimism even when times got tough, his huge and tender heart and his determination to live every drop of his life. And so much more. He loved you all so much, it always came through when we'd talk. You made him a happy man, and to each and every one of you, I am so very sorry for your tremendous loss. I know we'll all keep him alive in our hearts forever. Pam

December 16 at 8:19 PM



Polly December 24 at 5:11 PM

Beautifully adored, Tom,.et Al. Thank you so for sharing your resonating.thoughts.from the ❤️



Tom Broyles & St. Clair Bridge Club December 23 at 12:32 PM

So warming to have such a wonderful picture of Pat's big smile for his obituary tribute. Though, bet you couldn't find a picture of Pat without his big smile. Pat was truly high on life itself and everyone was eager to hop on his train. Pat had an abhorrence for the middle of the road. In bridge, if there was a chance for a slam, it was bid. Pat holds the highest score record in his St. Clair bridge club. People loved it. If there was music along the river, Pat was there. A four-person tag team couldn't keep up with one Pat Packer and his zest for life. Heaven watch out! Things are not going to be the same up there.



Pamela Ann Packer December 21 at 11:49 AM

Thanks for this remembrance Mimi. So beautiful, so true.



Gail Keirn December 19 at 2:51 PM

Pat was my next older cousin and loved by us all. He seemed to always have that wry smile, like he had a secret he wouldn't share. If so, that was the only thing he didn't share. His love, compassion, teaching, and humor were shared to all. Just knowing he's not on this Earth, not a phone call away, is heartwrenching. Pat was the same Pat all his life. He was my hippie, honest, unpretentious cousin. Always fun to be around. Bree, Polly and family we feel his loss every day since the 12th. I'm sorry you are in such grief but it is also an indication of the power of his presence in your lives. He lived each day to the fullest, so must you in his memory Love, Mimi



Gail Keirn December 19 at 2:40 PM

True and beautiful, Pam.



Bree Hoski December 17 at 4:29 AM

You said it well Pam



Tribute Wall

Patrick Douglas Packer

FEB 16, 1943 - DEC 12, 2020



Pam Packer shared an album called **Memories Album**.



December 16 at 7:27 PM



Pam Packer shared an album called **Memories Album**.




December 16 at 7:25 PM



Pam Packer shared an album called **Memories Album**.



December 16 at 7:20 PM


 **Pamela Packer** December 18 at 6:12 PM
Dann, Pat, Sue and Pam



Tom Lance posted:

Thanks for letting me know of your father's passing Bree. I have many fond memories of your family from the 60's and 70's. Pat and I talked about getting together for lunch and some Pickle ball action somewhere in Grosse Pointe in the spring of 2019, but never set a date Please accept my sincerest condolences to you and your family. Best Regards, Tom lance & Karen

December 16 at 7:07 PM

 **Bree Hoski** December 17 at 4:29 AM
Thank you, Tom



Tribute Wall

Patrick Douglas Packer

FEB 16, 1943 - DEC 12, 2020

JR

James Robillard posted:

Bree and Polly: Pat will be missed more than I can express, condolences to you and the family. With love, Jim Denise Jessie Lindsay and Jaclyn

December 16 at 2:00 PM



Bree Hoski December 17 at 4:30 AM

Thank you very much, Jim and Denise and girls

BB

Bill Berg posted:

Bree, Kurt, Polly and Family, So incredibly sorry for your loss. I have known Pat for a long time and I can honestly say that I have never met anyone quite like him. I so enjoyed seeing him at Gar's and sharing a boomba and some popcorn and definitely fun conversation. He was always light hearted and true to himself and I know he will be deeply missed. May God hold you all in the palm of his hand during this most difficult time. Bill Berg

December 15 at 7:17 AM



Jeni December 16 at 2:20 PM

Bree, Polly, family & friends; we are truly so sorry to hear of your Dads passing. He was definitely a special man that was always a jokester. I have many fond memories of your families love and laughter. Sending prayers for peace, may you take comfort in the warm memories you've created as you celebrate a life well lived. Love you, ♥ The Bell Family ♥



Bree Hoski December 16 at 5:12 AM

Thank you, Bill



Media

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Mark Maher shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

December 18 at 4:54 AM





Pam Packer shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album.

December 16 at 7:27 PM



Fashionista's Pat and Bree.



Pam Packer shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album.

December 16 at 7:25 PM



Pat, looking sharp at a family gathering.



Pam Packer shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album.

December 16 at 7:20 PM



Big brother Pat with smiling Dann, Sue and crying Pam.



Pamela Packer December 18 at 6:12 PM

Dann, Pat, Sue and Pam



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Patrick by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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