



## Patricia McCarthy Keeton

October 20, 1949 - February 16, 2016

Patricia (“Patty”) McCarthy Keeton, beloved wife, mother, daughter, sister, aunt, and grandmother, died unexpectedly at home in Stevensville, MD, on February 16, 2016 at the age of 66.

Born on October 20, 1949, in New Jersey, she was the daughter of Marion Babey and the late Eugene McCarthy. Patty grew up in New Jersey and later received her Bachelor’s degree in Education from the University of Maryland and a Master’s degree in special education from Johns Hopkins University. After starting her career as a public school teacher, she spent the past 32 years at Howard Community College, where she most recently served as the Executive Director of Workforce Development in the Division of Continuing Education.

Patty was very active in Howard County activities, a graduate of Leadership Howard County, past president of the Maryland Community College Association for Continuing Education and Training, and a recipient of many awards, including the Audrey Robbins Humanitarian Award, the Chamber of Commerce’s BRAC Business Person of the Year Award, and the College’s Administrator of the Year Award. Patty held leadership positions on numerous boards, including chairwoman of the National Association for Adult Education Legislative Committee, for which she assisted in drafting the 1991 National Adult Literacy Act. Additionally, she frequently testified in Annapolis on adult

literacy policy, and was recognized locally and nationally as an expert on literacy and workforce development.

Patty most loved spending time with her family where she was affectionately known as “Grammy.” In addition to her mother, she is survived by her husband, James T. Parker of Stevensville, MD; sons, Brian Keeton (Courtney) of Ellicott City, MD, and Kevin Keeton (Kevie) of Olney, MD; stepdaughter, Jennifer Perkins (Fletcher) of University Park, MD; sister, Maureen Campbell (Craig) of Frederick, MD; brothers, Mark McCarthy of Frederick, MD, and Daniel McCarthy of Holiday, FL.; grandchildren, Vaughn, Colby, Quinn, Owen, Brody, Ashton, and Caroline; and many adored nieces and nephews. Grammy was the matriarch of the family, always coordinating events and selflessly and unconditionally offering her support, love, guidance, and wisdom, among all other resources.

A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, March 2 at 10 a.m. at St. Louis Church, 12500 Clarksville Pike in Clarksville, MD.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made in Patty’s name to scholarships for students with financial needs set up by Howard Community College’s Foundation Office. Contributions can be made by calling the Foundation at 443-518-1970 or go online to [howardcc.edu/donate](http://howardcc.edu/donate).

# Tribute Wall



“ Patricia McCarthy Keeton

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ Patricia McCarthy Keeton

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ Patricia McCarthy Keeton

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ It has been 5 years and I am thankful I could say Patricia was a friend.

Trenton Hightower

Trenton Hightower - May 03, 2021 at 02:26 PM



“ I just heard of the death of Ms. Keeton. I grew up in Olney, MD, across the street from her family in the 1980s. The day my father died of cancer at home, December 31, 1990, when I was 11 years old, Ms. Keeton came to my bedroom to sit with me and comfort me while my mother took care of business. We had a lot of great neighbors in Olney, and Ms. Keeton was special. My sympathy to Brian, Kevin, and the rest of her family.

Jennifer Sine

Jennifer Sine - March 24, 2016 at 09:13 PM

KG

“ *Patty was truly delightful to work with and even more so as I had the pleasure of knowing her. She had a big heart and wanted the best for the people whose lives she touched. I'll miss her smile and warm personality. Peace and blessings to the family during the coming months. Her spirit lives in each of us.*

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**Kelly Garrett** - March 13, 2016 at 10:10 AM

KG

“ *Kelly Garrett sent a virtual gift in memory of Patricia McCarthy Keeton*



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**Kelly Garrett** - March 13, 2016 at 10:04 AM

SS

“ *Patty was committed to the field of workforce development and adult education/literacy for so many years. Her work and leadership impacted the field both nationally and in the State of Maryland. And as an adult educator and administrator, she cared about the learners first and foremost. I met Patty as an administrative colleague when I first entered the field in Maryland, and she was always kind and helpful in her guidance. She was an active member with the Maryland Association of Adult, Community and Continuing Education (MAACCE) for several years.*


*I thank Patty for all of her contributions to the field of adult education and for the support she offered me over the years as a professional colleague. As I read some of the other memories, I kept seeing reference to Patty's "spirit" -- and it was her special energy and spirit that connected with the people she worked with--even in situations where there was disagreement.*

*My condolences to the family--Patty will be missed by many. So sorry her life was cut short--as I know she had so much more to give and live for.*

*Sonia Socha  
Former Maryland adult education administrator  
MAACCE Board member*

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**Sonia Socha** - March 04, 2016 at 08:30 PM

 Nick  
DeYoung

“ *Patty will be sorely missed by the HCC community. Her commitment and dedication were inspiring to all of us.*

*Our deepest sympathy and condolences to Patty's family,*

*The DeYoung Family*

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**Nick DeYoung** - March 02, 2016 at 11:57 AM

SM

“ *Stephanie May lit a candle in memory of Patricia McCarthy Keeton*



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**Stephanie May** - March 02, 2016 at 07:23 AM

VG

“ *Dear family members,*

*We at Howard County Library System are so very grateful to have known Patty. We had the privilege of working with her on a wide variety of partnership initiatives, and will miss her dearly. She was a pleasure to know. Our hearts go out to you as you adjust to life here on earth without her physical presence.*

*Warmest regards,  
Valerie Gross and staff*

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**Valerie Gross** - March 01, 2016 at 03:07 PM

HM

“ *Patty glowed with energy and compassion. She was a joy to know, and it was a privilege to work with her. People who benefited from her professional expertise remember that she would always "find a way." In dark times, she was a light of hope. In good times, she made celebrations brighter, deeper, richer. Watching her grow over almost 40 years has been one of the blessings of my life. To Jim and all her wonderful family, I hope Patty's vibrant spirit will remain with you. She made a difference. And, she touched many lives, leaving all of them larger.*

*With love, Helen Mitchell*

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**Helen Mitchell** - March 01, 2016 at 08:21 AM

KD

“ *To Patty's Family. She was a very down to earth lady and I will always remember the times that we worked together on different occasions she will be missed. Blessings and Comfort To All The Families That Had A Connection To Patty.*

*Kim Davis  
HCC*

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**Kimberly Davis** - February 29, 2016 at 01:25 PM

KD

“ *Kimberly Davis lit a candle in memory of Patricia McCarthy Keeton*



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**Kimberly Davis** - February 29, 2016 at 01:23 PM

JC

“ *For almost 30 years, I have known Patty as a professional colleague, collaborator, co-facilitator, and friend . It has been a privilege and a blessing to have had her in my life to share personal and professional experiences, challenges, laughs and fun adventures. Patty was an incredible person and will be missed by so many people whose lives she has touched. My deepest sympathy to the McCarthy, Keeton, and Parker families. I cannot imagine the pain you feel and the emptiness in your lives. You will be in my thoughts and prayers as you cope with your loss. May God be with you in the coming months and ease your sorrow. Judy Crocker*

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**Judith Crocker** - February 28, 2016 at 07:55 PM

EB

“ I remember Patty as a very bright light at HCC. When I think of her, I see her smiling face, and appreciate her sense of humor and practicality. She was always such a calming, caring, down-to-earth presence--she inspired trust in me and in all of those around her. Even though I didn't see her regularly, I am very deeply shocked and saddened to learn that she has passed. I will truly miss her and her amazing energy, and my thoughts and prayers are with her friends and family.

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**Emily Betz** - February 28, 2016 at 11:12 AM

CZ

“ I've known Patty since 1982 when I was five years old. She always had three things ready when you came into the door of her house. A hug, a kiss, and brownies. She was upbeat and always ready to laugh. She will truly be missed.

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**Chris Zonts** - February 27, 2016 at 08:33 PM

AA

“ *"Everything I Know at HCC I Learned from Patty Keeton"!* I owe my career to Patty. She "took me in" as what was supposed to be temporary administrative support for 2 weeks...that was 30 years ago. Patty helped me grow both professionally and personally...what I have learned from her over the years is employed daily and invaluable...I am forever indebted to her. She was not only a boss but a mother, sister, dear and trusted friend. Den and I send our love and strength to the family...

*Althea Augoustatos*

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**Althea Augoustatos** - February 27, 2016 at 05:43 PM

“ To all who knew and loved Patty,

*I want to share some words that I posted on my Facebook page the evening on the day that we first learned about Patty:*

*Have you ever had a supervisor that you felt really had your back? Really admired your work and appreciated you? Did everything she could to keep you happy so you won't leave for another opportunity? Someone who took every chance she had to recognize you and whose door was always open? So that time when you got the worst possible news about your own family, you could just bust right through her door, close it, and pour out the situation in a way that she could not only understand, but could also help you somehow feel better about? Someone who would send you home to be with your family when you needed to be with them? Someone who would send you to the hospital to see a sick friend during the work day? Well, this person was so much more than all this. Her name is Patty Keeton and I will forever miss her kindness, spirit, energy, sharp wit, and most importantly her incredible sense of humor. She was not only my boss, but she was a true friend. We lost her unexpectedly and my heart is broken. I feel so grateful for all the great family I have at work. You all mean so much. We will get through this.*

*In addition to the thoughts above that I posted on Facebook, I want everyone in Patty's family to know that I, along with others at HCC, have been thinking about you so much during this difficult time. I worked with Patty for the past three years and a few months. She stopped in my office if not every day, then very close to it to tell me something, whether it be professional or personal -- almost always ending with a smile or a laugh. Patty was someone that (if you can't tell from above) that I highly trusted and enjoyed spending time with -- so much so that I even drove a crazy skid-vehicle just so she and Jim would get a good laugh that one cold Sunday afternoon. We often saw eye-to-eye and she is one of the few people in my entire life who has been able to finish sentences for me as I recap a*

*personal story. I will never forget that and I will never forget her. My heart and mind are with her family right now.*

*With love and strength,  
--Carrie O.*

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**Carrie O.** - February 27, 2016 at 04:43 PM

JM

“ To the Keeton Family and to All of Those Who Knew and Dearly Loved Patty ...

*It was with great sadness and heartfelt sympathy that I shared the news of Patty's passing to my colleagues who, along with me, had worked so closely with her over the past six years. For all of us who were deeply blessed to have her in our lives, her loss truly defies expression. I find myself beyond words to fully express the depth of emotion that I am feeling ... And I know so very many of us share this feeling as well. Patty was one of those very special people that touched the lives of all who came in contact with her. She had an energy that transcended the norm. You could actually feel her presence when you were around her. She treated all who came in contact with her with love, affection, courtesy, and respect. She personified commitment and dedication in all that she was involved with: family, friends, and work. She committed all of her energy, compassion and intellect to every person and every activity with which she was involved. Her loss will be one that is felt for days, months, and years to come ... As there was truly only one Patty Keeton that we all knew and cherished. I cannot even begin to imagine how you, her family, are dealing with her sudden loss. Please know that all who knew and loved her will keep you close in our thoughts and prayers as you cope with and mourn her sudden loss.*

*With love and sympathy,*

*Janette McAnallen ... On behalf of myself and my many colleagues at the Department of Defense who knew and loved Patty for the beautiful person she was. She will remain forever in our thoughts ... Forever in our hearts.*

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**Janette McAnallen** - February 27, 2016 at 11:00 AM

BW

“ *To Family and Friends of Patty Keeton,*

*I am very sorry for your loss and pray that you are comforted in knowing how much Patty was loved and respected by her colleagues. I met Patty in 2011 and have served as one of her trainers ever since. She was dynamic, professional, driven, friendly, and absolutely wonderful to work with. It was my privilege to know her and I miss her dearly.*

*With fondest thoughts of the great legacy Patty leaves behind, and prayers for the well-being of her family and loved ones,*

*Butch Wardlaw*

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**Butch Wardlaw** - February 26, 2016 at 11:15 AM

CK

“ *I'm sure we speak on behalf of the whole family to say that we have really enjoyed reading these messages and memories...They have brought smiles to our faces during this difficult time. Thanks to all who have posted these kind words. Love, Brian & Courtney*

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**Courtney Keeton** - February 26, 2016 at 10:35 AM

AR

“ *Sending my love and affection to Patty's beautiful family. May God hold you in his wings and bring you comfort to your during your loss.*

*Arnette*



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**Arnette** - February 26, 2016 at 08:03 AM

VD

“ Dear Patty,  
I'm sorry I'm unable to attend your memorial service, but that's a small regret compared to the many good memories I carry with me. More than 25 years ago you hired me, and over the years we shared hugs, laughs, and sadness. To your loving family I send my heartfelt condolences for their sudden loss; to you I send waves of love to carry you on your new spiritual journey. Farewell good friend. May the Blessings be.  
Vince DeSanti

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**Vincent DeSanti** - February 25, 2016 at 11:16 PM

SP

“ I remember her helping me ride a two wheel bike for the first time. I always liked visiting Brian when we were kids. She made me feel special and welcome.

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**Stephen Puckett** - February 25, 2016 at 12:26 PM

MB

“ Patty was my supervisor while I was employed at HCC years ago. I use to love to see that pretty hair of hers just "bounce and behave." Patty went on to be with the lord on my birthday; I will always remember her smile and that lovely hair! She was a very effective person at HCC; she got the job done. Not only was she very effective, she was personable. I remember going to Patty on several different occassions on personal matters, and she was always there for me! She will be dearly missed! She left a legacy, but most importantly, she left her spirit of humility and grace.

Love, Madeline Bradley

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**Madeline Bradley** - February 25, 2016 at 11:41 AM

BL

“ It was my pleasure to have the opportunity to work with Patty at different times and on a variety of projects. She was a vibrant person, dedicated to all of the things and people she held dear. We will miss her so much! May the God of peace enfold you all in His arms and comfort and strengthen you at this time.

*Betty Logan, HCC*

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**Betty Logan** - February 25, 2016 at 09:26 AM

JK

“ So many wonderful memories of Patty when I was State Director in Maryland, and mostly, when I was exec director of AAACE. She was an indomitable worker, creative, thoughtful and always fun. Though I haven't seen her in years, I have so many fond memories. I am so sorry.



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**Judy Koloski** - February 24, 2016 at 10:36 PM

MC

“ Patty's fun-loving spirit and great laugh will long remain with all of us who were fortunate to work with her--and to call her friend. My deepest sympathies to Jim and the Keeton and Parker families. May you take comfort in the memory of Patty's life and love.

*- Mary Ann Corley*

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**Mary Ann Corley** - February 24, 2016 at 10:04 PM

JL

“ God made living things both great and small and put them on earth so that we all could share all the wonderful life experiences and possibilities ... and that is where memories are born. I can not say enough what an experience that it has been while working in Continuing Education for the past 15 years along side Patty many other coworkers. It was a "family atmosphere" with a lot of love and support. We would always celebrate everyone's successes and when sadness fell upon the group, Patty was always so swift to comfort us, as she was our group leader. There have been people in my life that I have come across that have made a difference...thank you for the caring support and may you rest now upon the clouds as our Guardian Angel.

*To the Family, I offer my sympathy and support for your healing - that will all come in time. As I said earlier, God made things both great and small....grab all of those memories and wrap them around you!! Sing the special songs a little louder, laugh a little longer, eat dessert first! Patty will always be with you, not in body, but in Spirit!!*

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**Jennifer LePore** - February 24, 2016 at 09:46 PM

SK

“ I lived in the college dorm with Patty at UMD. We were in Angel Flight together. We shared many fun times and highlights of our earlier lives. I am very disappointed that I will be away next week and unable to attend her service. Gone too young. A reminder that none of us is promised a tomorrow.

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**sophie jacoby kowzun** - February 24, 2016 at 06:06 PM

ET

“ Dear Keaton family, I was more than honored to know and become friends with Patty these last two years through our mutual participation on the Howard County Tech Council Board. As you know, becoming friends with Patty was extremely easy to do because she was so darn likable and easy to get along with, while at the same time being a straight talking, sensible and obviously loving person. We've all lost a great one in Patty, that's for sure. So, please accept my heart felt condolences for the loss you have experienced through the passing of such a sweet and (as I expressed to someone else) "cool" woman. Warmest regards,  
Emmet Tydings

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**Emmet Tydings** - February 24, 2016 at 04:14 PM

DM

“ My deepest condolences to Patty's family, to her friends and to all those who loved her or crossed her path.  
You will not be forgotten, either in our prayers or thoughts.

*Dalil Menasria.  
ELC/HCC.*

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**Dalil Menasria** - February 24, 2016 at 11:06 AM

KP

“ Patty will be missed - not only by her family and friends - but all of the people in Howard County who, directly or indirectly, benefited from her work and influence. She was a terrific member of the team who ran the Office of Continuing Education at HCC. I had the pleasure of working with her during the years 1984-97 and I remember those years fondly and when we moved to the Hickory Ridge Building. She and her family will be in my thoughts and prayers.

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**Katherine Philipp** - February 24, 2016 at 08:29 AM

JH

“ *Patty was a valued member of the CASAS family of professional adult educators. She had a shining radiance about her and was regarded as a pioneering leader in the field of adult education. She was a great lady and a very wonderful person.*



*John Hartwig*

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**John Hartwig** - February 23, 2016 at 09:10 PM

CK

“ *How sad to hear of Patty's sudden death. We remember her with great fondness from when we first met over 30 years ago. She was an energetic, innovative leader at Howard Community College and throughout the State. Our sympathies to Patty's family and close friends.*

*Carolyn & Bill Kennedy*

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**Carolyn A Kennedy** - February 23, 2016 at 08:40 PM

TC

“ Patti was a true professional and a wonderful advocate for the community colleges in Maryland and the people she served and I was sorry to hear of her passing.. She was always my "go to" person while I was Howard County gov't, MIETP, MD Dept of Business and Economic Development, and MD Dept of Labor. She always gave me the strait scoop, was willing to give her time freely on so many efforts over many years. She worked relentless in serving the citizens of not only Howard County but also the State of Maryland. Besides that I considered her a true friend. She showed me Disneyland while we in California at a conference, something I would not have considered without her prompting. Patti will be sorely missed by friends, family and colleagues alike. I will remember her fondly. - Trudy Chara (retired)

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**Trudy Chara** - February 23, 2016 at 05:09 PM

DJ

“ Diane Johnston lit a candle in memory of Patricia McCarthy Keeton



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**Diane Johnston** - February 23, 2016 at 03:20 PM

SF

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Sending healing prayers and lots of love to the Keeton family and friends during this difficult time. Patty will be cherished and missed.



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**shayna freedman** - February 23, 2016 at 01:40 PM

GF

“ Grace Fendlay lit a candle in memory of Patricia McCarthy Keeton



Grace Fendlay - February 23, 2016 at 01:22 PM

Kelly Campbell

“ Kelly Campbell lit a candle in memory of Patricia McCarthy Keeton



Kelly Campbell - February 23, 2016 at 01:00 PM

AH

“ Aarone H lit a candle in memory of Patricia McCarthy Keeton



Aarone H - February 23, 2016 at 12:20 PM

JF

“ Jodi Fisher lit a candle in memory of Patricia McCarthy Keeton



Jodi Fisher - February 23, 2016 at 12:08 PM

AB

“ *Patti's warm spirit and kindness will be missed by all who knew her. Keeping her family, friends, and colleagues in my thoughts and prayers right now. My deepest condolences for this heartbreaking loss.*

*Anjula Batra*

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**Anjula Batra** - February 23, 2016 at 12:04 PM

NM

“ *Nanette Muzlera-Mooney lit a candle in memory of Patricia McCarthy Keeton*



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**Nanette Muzlera-Mooney** - February 23, 2016 at 11:56 AM

KF

“ *Kismet F lit a candle in memory of Patricia McCarthy Keeton*



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**Kismet F** - February 23, 2016 at 11:50 AM

AS

“ *Anjna Sharma lit a candle in memory of Patricia McCarthy Keeton*



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**Anjna Sharma** - February 23, 2016 at 11:42 AM

TH

“ *Tabitha H. lit a candle in memory of Patricia McCarthy Keeton*



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**Tabitha H.** - February 23, 2016 at 11:27 AM

JO

“ *What a privilege to know and work with such a wise, generous and gifted humanitarian and friend. Her goodness was at the heart of every thought and transaction. She will be very greatly missed.*

*Jane O'Leary*

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**Jane O'Leary** - February 23, 2016 at 10:31 AM

FT

“ *Tj and I send our condolences. It wasn't that long ago that we did Project MAPP together. So sorry to hear about her passing.*

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**Fran Tracy-Mumford** - February 23, 2016 at 07:53 AM

AI

“ *Over the years I had the wonderful opportunity to know and work with Patty. I admired her a great deal. How she could always be calm and wise and thoughtful and selfless and really wanting to help - always. My heart goes out to all of Patty's family and friends. The community of Howard County will miss her very much. Her loss will be deeply felt.*

*Andrea Ingram*

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**Andrea S Ingram** - February 22, 2016 at 07:03 PM

LK

“ *Linda K lit a candle in memory of Patricia McCarthy Keeton*



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**Linda K** - February 22, 2016 at 03:14 PM

BG

*It was always a pleasure to walk pass Patty on campus and be greeted with that warm and kind smile of Patty like she last gave me on Friday, February 12, as she cross campus. Patty will be missed. Blessings, Belinda Green*

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**Belinda Green** - February 23, 2016 at 02:22 PM



“ *I couldn't have asked for a more wonderful mother-in-law, and can't imagine my life without her. Patty was selfless, nurturing, loving, and was always putting others before herself. She had the biggest, warmest heart and never held back from showing her love. From the moment I met her, she embraced me into her family like I had been there all along. I could always count on her to talk me through a bad day at work or make me laugh through a tough mommy moment. She helped me make sense of difficult times, supported my decisions, and always told me that she was proud of me, as if I was a daughter of her own.*

*I'll miss our phone calls, your laugh, your hugs, your smile. Most of all, I'll miss the way Owen and Brody light up when you walk into the room or when they see you on FaceTime. I wish I had taken you up on more of your countless offers to babysit just so my boys could've had a few extra moments with you. We will always sing the songs you taught the boys and will read "Don't Let The Pigeon Drive The Bus" the funny way you did. We love you forever.*

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**Kevie Keeton** - February 22, 2016 at 02:14 PM

PM

“ *Patty's family is in my thoughts. This sudden loss of her has touched all of us.*

*She had the wonderful ability to reach out to individuals in a warm and welcoming way. At the same time, she could move community projects along to make a difference for all of us.*

*We will miss that star that she represented.*

*Phyllis Madachy*

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**Phyllis Madachy** - February 22, 2016 at 01:28 PM

BD

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with Patty's family and friends.*

*I remember Patty as a kind, warm and positive friend who got things done. She always found a solution that was a win/win.*

*I reached out to Patty just two weeks ago with a dilemma for a staff person who was very much interested in going back to school and completing her degree, but hampered by procedural mandates that blocked her path.*

*Within a couple of hours, Patty had a solution that opened the path for this young lady to continue her education.... and could forever change the trajectory of her life.*

*Thank you Patty for the lives you've so beautifully touched.*

*You will be missed my friend.*

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**Bitia Dayhoff** - February 22, 2016 at 11:21 AM

AM

“ *Patty always brought such energy and warmth to every meeting or event. She greeted everyone with that winning smile and taught me so much about poise and presence. I will miss her. I send love and prayers to her family.*

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**Amy Chase Martin** - February 21, 2016 at 07:49 PM

RS

“ *I remember Patty as a nurturing "den mother" to all her faculty. She had phenomenal energy and insight. I miss her tremendously.*

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**rima shaffer** - February 20, 2016 at 09:07 AM