



Patricia Jean Kilby

October 20, 1948 - March 20, 2026

Patricia Kilby, a devoted educator, loving wife, and generous aunt, passed away on March 20, 2026 at the age of 77 leaving behind a legacy of compassion, dedication, and joy that touched countless lives.

Patricia dedicated 40 years of her life to the Detroit Public School System as a special education teacher. Her career was marked by unwavering commitment, patience, and a deep belief in the potential of every child she taught. She made a lasting impact on her students, their families, and her colleagues, who will remember her as both an advocate and an inspiration.

A lifelong learner, Patricia earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees from Marygrove College in Detroit. She carried her passion for education far beyond the classroom, always striving to grow and to uplift others.

Outside of her professional life, Patricia embraced the simple joys that brought her happiness. She had a deep love for the theater and cherished countless performances shared with her best friend, Sue Romanowski. Together, they created treasured memories, especially during their many visits to the Stratford Theatre in Ontario.

Patricia also found great joy in giving. She delighted in shopping for her nieces and nephews, always choosing thoughtful gifts that reflected her

generous and caring spirit. Her family will forever remember her kindness and the special way she made each of them feel loved.

She also enjoyed traveling with her husband to Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. There, they shared laughter and relaxation, playing the slot machines together, while Patricia especially enjoyed her time at the blackjack tables and indulging in the many amenities the resort had to offer.

Patricia will be remembered for her warm heart, her generosity, her love of learning, and the deep connections she formed throughout her life. Her legacy lives on in the many lives she touched and the love she shared so freely.

She will be dearly missed and forever remembered.

She is the beloved wife of 55 years of John Kilby. Loving mother of John Michael (fiancée Chloe Johnson) Kilby and Brian (Danielle) Kilby. Dearest sister of Judy (the late Paul) Jennison and Greg (Mary Jane) Kolodziejewski. Dearest aunt to several nieces and nephews.

Visitation Friday 2-8 PM with a 7 PM Rosary at the Wasik Funeral Home, Inc. 49150 Schoenherr Rd. (n. of 22 Mile Road), Shelby Twp. Instate Saturday 9:30 AM until 10:00 AM Funeral Mass at St. Andrew Catholic Church 1400 Inglewood (n. of Romeo Road), Rochester Hills.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 27. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home, Shelby Township
49150 Schoenherr Rd.
Shelby Township, MI 48315
(586) 532-8600
shelby@wasikfuneralhome.com

Rosary

MAR 27. 7:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home, Shelby Township
49150 Schoenherr Rd.
Shelby Township, MI 48315
(586) 532-8600
shelby@wasikfuneralhome.com

Instate in church

MAR 28. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

St Andrew Catholic Church
1400 Inglewood Avenue
Rochester, MI 48307-1518

Funeral Mass

MAR **28**. 10:00 AM (ET)

St Andrew Catholic Church
1400 Inglewood Avenue
Rochester, MI 48307-1518

Tribute Wall

CH

“ *Such a lovely and giving woman. Like a second Mother to me for a few years, I know her love and generosity will be missed by many*

CHAD - March 27 at 10:07 PM

PA

“ *Patti lit a candle in memory of Patricia Jean Kilby*



Patti - March 27 at 08:06 PM

DR

“ *To the girl & lady that I grew with, my mind is full of fond memories of my childhood growing up with Patty and her family, they lived right behind us in Detroit, we were only months apart and in age and she was my prom date while Johnny was in the service (he lived next door) , my heart goes out to you Johnny for your loss, as well to the of the rest of the family*
Sincerely Dan Ritter

Daniel Ritter - March 26 at 04:24 PM

MV

“ *Mitchell Johnson and Kristoffer de Villa planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Patricia Jean Kilby.*

Mitchell Johnson and Kristoffer de Villa - March 25 at 04:21 AM

MV

“ Mitchell Johnson and Kristoffer de Villa purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Patricia Jean Kilby.



Mitchell Johnson and Kristoffer de Villa - March 25 at 04:21 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Patricia Jean Kilby.

March 23 at 07:14 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Patricia Jean Kilby.



March 23 at 07:14 PM

MF

“ Pat will be deeply missed. She began as “Judy’s big sister” (60 years ago!). However, she soon became a cherished friend in her own right. I loved traveling with her. What could be better than adventures with a teacher that knew so many facts about wherever we were? And had the ability to explain it all so interestingly. When she called and asked if I wanted to join her on a Hawaii cruise, I said yes before she even finished the question. So many wonderful memories.

Marie Fields - March 23 at 01:27 PM

HH

“ I had the pleasure and honor to be a co-worker with Pat, both at middle school and high school levels. She was an inspiring co-worker and mentor, and we spoke often about student concerns. That’s when her compassion and dedication became obvious to me. For Pat, teaching wasn’t an occupation; it was her vocation. I’m sure there are hundreds of former students, whose lives she helped shape forever, will remember her with a big, sentimental smile. To Pat, teaching wasn’t an occupation, it was her vocation, as she helped countless number of children prepare for life as an adult. She will be dearly missed. My sympathy and condolences to her family. *Hrant Hratchian*

Hrant Hratchian - March 23 at 10:26 AM

CC

“ *Cathy Cottone lit a candle in memory of Patricia Jean Kilby*



Cathy Cottone - March 23 at 09:58 AM

MN

“ *Marion N. purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Patricia Jean Kilby.*



Marion N. - March 23 at 08:38 AM

PW

“ *The world has lost an amazing woman, but her legacy will live on with the many lives she touched.*
My Aunt Pat was one of the first people in my life that allowed me to be myself.
She supported my ideas and growth both as an artist and human being in general
She was very special to me.
We connected with the Arts....
She came alive with music, color, language, buildings, history, seriously you name it.... When it came to Art this woman was just cool to be with.... She was inspired.
Together we created..... I used my first kiln in her basement. 40 years later I'm still messing with kilns lol We painted together, crafted, cooked, read, sat and talked.
I will miss her brilliant mind, but the nuggets of knowledge she's given to me I've always held close to my heart.
She was my Aunt and I loved her dearly.
Her memory will live on through me and every piece I create...
Because without her love and unconditional support I wouldn't be the artist I am today.
XoxoPatti West (RedPaw)

Patti West - March 22 at 08:33 PM

PW

“ *Patti West lit a candle in memory of Patricia Jean Kilby*



Patti West - March 22 at 08:33 PM

PW

“ Patricia W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Patricia Kilby.

Patricia W. - March 22 at 08:11 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Patricia Kilby.

March 22 at 06:55 PM

SC

“ Scott C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Patricia Kilby.

Scott C. - March 22 at 05:05 PM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Patricia Jean Kilby.



March 22 at 04:44 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Patricia Kilby.

March 22 at 04:44 PM