



## Mrs. Patricia E. "Pat" (Gudyka) Zurakowski

March 16, 1938 - July 30, 2022

UTICA - Mrs. Patricia E. "Pat" (Gudyka) Zurakowski, age 84, passed away peacefully in her sleep on Saturday, July 30, 2022 with those she loved most in her heart.

Born in Utica on March 16, 1938, Patricia was the daughter of the late Charles and Eleanor (Rodzinka) Gudyka. She attended St. Joseph & St. Patrick Elementary School and was a graduate of Utica Catholic Academy/Class of 1956. During the latter years of her life, in the 1990's she enrolled in evening classes at Utica College, concentrating her studies in Business Administration.

On June 13, 1959 Pat wed Fred Zurakowski, who was her devoted husband and friend for 63 years.

During her vast and varied working life, Pat was employed as a secretary, a career that began at the AT&T Telephone Company, followed by the General Electric Company at the French Road location. She subsequently held a position at St. Agnes School spanning the years of Fr. James Quinn's tenure to the beginning of Reverend Monsignor Francis Willenberg's arrival at the parish; she remained close in friendship with the clergy she served over the years. Pat's next post was at Hamilton College as the Executive Secretary to the President, Martin Caravano, one of her greatest and most gratifying accomplishments. Her semi-retirement positions included her appointment as a receptionist at Lutheran Home where she welcomed all with a piece of candy and a smile, a nicety that earned her the nickname "Candy Lady".

Clearly obvious to all, Pat's work ethic was boundless, just as her personality was fiercely independent, welcoming, hospitable, and generous. In light of her desire to be accommodating, she won the affection of many people who saw her virtues reflected in her actions. Pat appreciated the friendships she made that filled her days.

Her interests included reading cover-to-cover innumerable Harlequin Romance novels filled with excitement and suspense, and watching the Hallmark Channel programs and movies. But most important was her "GrandPad" that connected her to her grandchildren, and great-grandchildren virtually, via videos and treasured photographs that she viewed time and time again!

Pat quoted a phrase that defined what made her most happy, "My family is the light of my life, ...my children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren make everything worthwhile".

Patricia is survived by her husband and friend, Fred; her daughters and son-in-law, Lisa Rajchel, Shelley and Dr. Ron Femia; grandchildren, Adam Rajchel and Alissa Kinner; Ronnie and Kate Femia, Dr. Alex and Luke Miller; great-grandchildren, Dominic, and Liliana Femia; Charlotte Miller, and the anticipated 4th great-grandchild in September. She also leaves her sister, Donna Fogarty; sisters-in-law, Ann-Marie Gudyka, Teresa Zurakowski, and Gladys Zurakowski; numerous and much-loved nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, and especially her nephew, Richard Mosher, who was devoted to her care and supported her throughout her life as well as the many lifelong friends who blessed her days, including Etta Dontino and Rose Bucciero. Pat was predeceased by her siblings, Catherine Kolodziej, Charles Gudyka, Anne and Leo Piechowicz, John Fogarty, Gladys and Frank Handzel, and Jane and John Boehlert; nephews, Frank Handzel, Michael Handzel, and Jack Boehlert; great-niece, Joanne Carinci; in-laws, Eleanor and John Casaletta, Louis and Frances Zurakowski, Josephine Misiaszek, Charles Zurakowski, and Eugene Zurakowski.

Finally, her special angel, Jaime Hawkins George, and her cherished son-in-

law, Gregory Rajchel.

The family is grateful to the nurses and staff at The Grand Rehabilitation and Nursing Center who rendered care, dignity, and compassion to Pat during her final journey.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend her funeral service and Celebration of Life which will commence on Saturday morning, August 6, 2022 at 11:00 at Historic Old St. John's Church, 240 Bleecker Street where her Mass of Christian Burial will be offered. There will be an opportunity to greet the family at the conclusion of Mass. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Pat's memory may be made to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation online at [www.t2t.org/donate](http://www.t2t.org/donate). Envelopes will also be available at the service.

Pat's service may be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/V33LPgrthXs>

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

AUG 6. 11:00 AM (ET)

Historic Old St. John's Church

240 Bleecker Street

Utica, NY 13501

(315) 724-6159

<https://www.historicoldstjohnschurch.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mrs. Patricia E. "Pat" (Gudyka) Zurakowski.*



August 05, 2022 at 02:33 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Mrs. Patricia E. "Pat" (Gudyka) Zurakowski.*



August 05, 2022 at 01:17 PM



“ *Lisa's friends at INCITS and ITI purchased the Heavenly Grace Spray for the family of Mrs. Patricia E. "Pat" (Gudyka) Zurakowski.*



**Lisa's friends at INCITS and ITI - August 05, 2022 at 09:59 AM**



“ 80 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



**Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.** - August 05, 2022 at 08:36 AM

JC

“ *My deepest sympathy to all of you. Pat was a one in a million friend. We had many wonderful times during the St. Agnes days. She shared both happy and sad times with our family. May she be surrounded by angels forevermore. May all your wonderful memories bring you peace and strength during this sad time. Love and Prayers,*  
*Jeanne Castronovo and Family*

**Jeanne Castronovo** - August 03, 2022 at 10:42 PM

PJ

“ *I always cherished the years Aunt Pat was in my life. She was always the family glue..Awesome lady and so deserves her golden wing..My sincere condolences to the family*  
*Phyllis Jones*



**phyllis Jones** - August 03, 2022 at 06:10 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mrs. Patricia E. "Pat" (Gudyka) Zurakowski.*



August 03, 2022 at 08:51 AM



“ *My condolences to her family and friends. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. May she Rest In Peace.*



**Josette Lucenti** - August 03, 2022 at 07:02 AM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Patricia E. "Pat" (Gudyka) Zurakowski.*



August 02, 2022 at 03:36 PM



“ *Don Marino & Family lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Patricia E. "Pat" (Gudyka) Zurakowski*



**Don Marino & family** - August 02, 2022 at 02:58 PM

DM

*Don Matino*

**Don Marino** - August 02, 2022 at 02:59 PM

FR

“ *Shelly, Lisa and Family*  
*We are so very sorry for the loss of your Mom. Thinking of all the events that we shared with your family we remember your Mom always with a smiling face. God Bless!*  
*Frank & Debbie*

**Frank** - August 02, 2022 at 12:20 PM

FF

“ *Frank & Debbie Femia lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Patricia E. "Pat" (Gudyka) Zurakowski*



**Frank & Debbie Femia** - August 02, 2022 at 12:15 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Patricia E. "Pat" (Gudyka) Zurakowski.*



August 02, 2022 at 08:24 AM

MP

“ *Pat was a great woman . I worked with her at Macy's and I worked with her at Lutheran home in Clinton. She always smiling and happy. Sorry to hear she is gone. Love mike and carol Puleo.*

**mike and carol puleo** - August 02, 2022 at 03:09 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Patricia E. "Pat" (Gudyka) Zurakowski.*



August 01, 2022 at 10:26 PM



“ *Lisa and Shelley, I am so sorry to hear of the passing of your mom. She was a special woman, who touched so many people's lives, including mine. I have so many cherished memories her. Sending my deepest sympathy to you and you family during this difficult time.*  
*Luann*

**Luann Biancardi** - August 01, 2022 at 10:25 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Patricia E. "Pat" (Gudyka) Zurakowski.*



August 01, 2022 at 07:19 PM



“ *Lisa, Shelly & Family,*  
*So very sorry to hear about the passing of ur beautiful mom. Remembering how kind & sweet she was towards the children of St. Agnes School. Noticed reading the obit. our parents were married on same day & yr. We definitely were blessed. Thoughts & Prayers*  
*Darlene Karam*

**Darlene A Karam** - August 01, 2022 at 06:07 PM

CT

“ Rest In Peace, beautiful lady! Thank you for sharing your food (eggplant parmigiana and pierogies!), your time, your smile, and your family with me. So glad to have known you. Thoughts and prayers for the family.

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**Cathy Tilton** - August 01, 2022 at 04:59 PM

RS

“ Lisa and Shelley, I'm so sorry to hear of your mother's passing. She was a kind and loving person, and a friend to everyone she met. May she Rest In Peace.

*Rob Santucci*

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**Rob Santucci** - August 01, 2022 at 04:46 PM

LC

“ Dear Shelley and family  
Please accept my sincere condolences on the loss of your beloved Mom.  
May many fond moments and loving memories help to sustain all your family during this very sad time.  
Love Lucille

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**Lucille Cannamela** - August 01, 2022 at 03:36 PM

MB

“ To the zurakowski family, please except our sincere sympathy. You have lost a lovely,caring,giving, special lady.May she rest in peace .Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this terrible time.  
Love, Carl and Maryann Biancardi

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**Mary Ann Biancardi** - August 01, 2022 at 09:13 AM