



Patti Watson Walsh

December 7, 1941 - April 27, 2018

Patti was born December 7, 1941, a day that will live in infamy - Pearl Harbor Day, and passed away peacefully on Friday, April 27, 2018 with her children at her side.

She is survived by her children, Phyllis Sultzbach, and Ron Watson, as well as her sister, Donna Markey, her brother, DL Stevens and her grandchildren - Austin Sultzbach, Kyla Watson, Dylan Watson (deceased) and several step-grandchildren.

She will be missed by hundreds, if not thousands, of former dance students, faculty and other entertainers/dancers that she helped mentor. Patti was so much too so many that her impact will live on through all those she touched.

At an early age, Patti discovered dance and blossomed at the Royal School of Dance in Winter Park, where she met Kip Watson, the father of her children. Before moving to New York to start her dance career and get married, she was selected as Miss Winter Park. Patti danced on and off Broadway and was a June Taylor dancer on the Jackie Gleason Show before returning to central Florida to open a dance school, the School of Performing Arts (originally named Kip Watson Dance Studio). She also co-founded the first professional dance company in Orlando.

She was married a second time, to Rick Walsh and ran her dance studio up until her retirement after being diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.

Patti was an extreme workaholic, but she also, truly enjoyed the outdoors, whether it be the mountains or the beach. She enjoyed her plants and yard work, but loved rocks. Oh did she love her rocks.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made in her name to the Michael J Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research.

In addition to the viewing on May 4th, there will be a celebration of her life, Saturday May 19th starting at 5:30 at Trinity Prep Theatre. Her children feel it would be only appropriate to celebrate her life at the theater.

The family would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts and prayers as we remember our beloved Patti. She was such a wonderful daughter, sibling, wife, mother, aunt, grandmother and teacher of many. You will be forever missed Patti, but in heaven can now finally dance again!!!. Make sure you smile, sell and watch your lines!

Arrangements are entrusted to DeGusipe Funeral Home and Crematory, 9001 N Orlando Avenue, Maitland, Florida 32751. 407-695-CARE(2273)

Previous Events

Service

MAY 4. 5:00 PM (ET)

DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory Maitland Chapel
9001 N. Orlando Ave
Maitland, FL 32751
(407) 695-2273
todd@degusipe.com
<https://www.degusipefuneralhome.com>

Reception

MAY 4. 6:00 PM (ET)

DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory Maitland Chapel
9001 N. Orlando Ave
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Celebration of Life

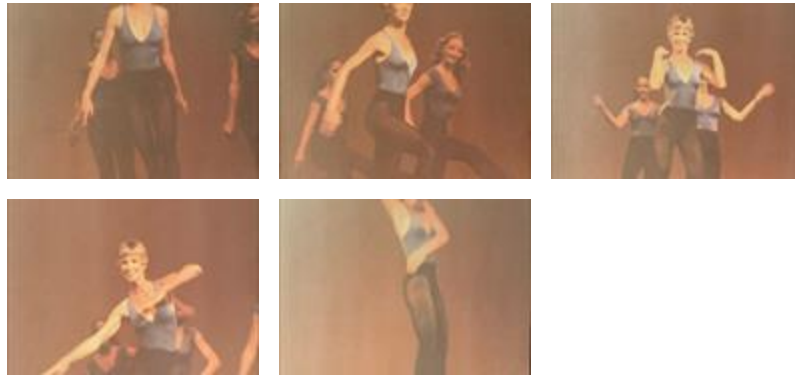
MAY 19. 5:30 PM (ET)

Trinity Prep Theatre
5700 Trinity Prep Lane
Winter Park, FL 32792

Tribute Wall

MD

“ 5 files added to the album Miss Patti's Signature Moves WPHS Recital June 1983



M. Dietrick - April 16, 2023 at 08:48 PM

DS

“ I was just sharing stories of New York City (Rockets) to my son and this led into a story of how amazing my love of jazz and tap was inspired by “this amazing dancer:instructor, Patty Watson”. I looked up her name to show him a picture of this beautiful and extremely talented woman and sadly saw this notice! I grew up in Winter Park, Florida and danced with Patty from age 8-18 before leaving for college. Patty inspire confidence, poise, posture and energy, which I’ve carried through my life! My condolences are belated, but heartfelt for all her family!!!!

Debbie Greear Saffari (Gig Harbor, WA)

Debbie Greear Saffari - December 22, 2020 at 01:54 PM

SM

“ Patti was my Dance Teacher. I loved her. She taught me so many things that you can apply to life. She was beautiful and I will never forget her strength.

Sharon McGivern - May 16, 2020 at 11:05 PM

CD

“ I danced at the School of Performing Arts during my elementary years and took Tap with Patty in my young adult life when I went to Valencia ~1982! No one taught like she did :-) I can still do the barr and tap routines in my head and the warm up exercises. She always began her class sharing something about her personal life. She was a great storyteller and made each person feel special. I also remember how she loved her corvettes!!! Time does heal when your loved one dies. My mom died about the same time, April 19, 2018! Memories and photographs help fill-in the loss but my hope, is that just like Christ lived, died and was resurrected, we too will be in Heaven one day and will not only be face-to-face with God and dine with Him but we will have a reunion with our loved ones ...maybe I'll even do a tap dance with Patty. 😊

Connie Dugan - December 26, 2019 at 08:05 AM

DP

“ Hello. I have just learned of this and wish to share my wonderful memories at the old Orlando School of Performing Arts with Patti. I will never forget her Jazz Classes in that old space in the 70's. I had come from a conservative, sheltered background and her classes, and Barbara Riggins', were the first Dance lessons I had ever taken. Although I was awkward, embarrassed and self-conscious, Patti cut right through that and taught me about "Gus", Twyla" and "Bob" and that breathtaking edgy New York Jazz technique that was blowing everything wide open in the Dance World. I never did become a remarkable dancer but I "had the heart", she told me that, and I worked with everything I could. Her incredible verve and style shaped me sufficiently so that when I found myself on the Continent, working with several different cultures a few years later, I was able to perform with reasonable, acceptable deportment. She was kind, patient and never condescending but had a style, grace and panache that was unforgettable! I am incredibly grateful for encountering her on my path. Blessings and comforts to her Near and Dearest. Donna Daisy Pratt 8/29/18

Donna Daisy Pratt - August 29, 2018 at 12:50 PM

WA

“ I remember Patti's laugh and beautiful eyes - and her love for dance. I hope her children know how much she loved them. Lynne Watson

Watson - May 04, 2018 at 05:44 PM



“ Bright and Beautiful Spray was purchased for the family of Patti Watson Walsh.



May 03, 2018 at 05:29 PM

AF

“ Patti taught me so much about dance and myself. The only thing I can do is post this poem that was published in the poetry journal Cadence this year

.Dance

*My short body elongates on
the Springflex dance floor
stretching nose to foot.*

*I meet my body humours,
stinks and muscles
a most intimate act.*

*I twirl and leap across the studio,
atop a Tchaikovsky wave
my spirit free.*

*Truly dance is not a public act.
It's private, personal and
the closest I get to
self-love.*

by Alice R. Friedman

blessings everyone

Alice Friedman - May 03, 2018 at 07:17 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Patti Watson Walsh.



May 02, 2018 at 06:50 PM

SM

“ *My heart and prayers are with Phyllis and Ronnie and the rest of the family.*

If you're lucky you get to know someone like Patti in your lifetime. Someone who mentors, inspires, encourages and adds a golden thread that is sewn into the fabric of your being. Patti was all of this for me and much more as she was for so many. She once said to me, "Suzie, you never know the impact you're having on someone's life." I've often remembered those words through all these years. I know them to be true.

Patti gave me a home. When I walked into that studio and joined all the beautiful people who resided within, I felt like I was where I belonged. Patti made me feel that way. I am eternally grateful for the fun, the inclusion, the laughter and overall happiness I received from her.

Her beautiful star will sparkle forever in my heart.

xoxoxo

Suzie

Suzie Morris - May 02, 2018 at 06:07 PM

JK

“ *From a very young age Patti was my 'second mom'. Spending so many hours every week in the studio. I have Such wonderful memories. Sending love to her family I'm sure she's keeping the lines straight in heaven! Joyce Munro Kilgore.*

Joyce kilgore - May 02, 2018 at 10:52 AM

GK

“ Love and blessings to all of Patti's family, friends, and students! Thank you, Patti, for making one of the most positive impacts in my life. For setting an example of being a poised and strong woman. For teaching me proper placement and how to kick high! ;) I had not seen or spoken with you for many long years, but you are just one of those people who stayed in my heart and mind always. One of my favorite things about you was watching you walk into the studio and across the floor, with strut, style, confidence, and grace. Oh, and of course, your smile! I love you to infinity and beyond. Rest in peace, lovely lady! Forever Your Student, Gloria Keyser

Gloria Keyser - May 01, 2018 at 08:21 PM

PL

Patti, it's been several years since beaming with pride as I saw you on the Bob Carr stage receiving well-deserved accolades for helping to give birth to a professional dance company in Orlando. And, it's been many more years since I've seen you in the Studio where you energetically choreographed and transformed ordinary people (of all ages) into Dancers! You had the artistic knowledge; and you knew how to inspire and challenge, as you imparted your talents to others. Through the love of dance, you were an outstanding role model of strength and poise in all phases of life. I will be forever grateful to you for leaving such sweet memories within me, and I'm sure within thousands of others. Memories of you, always with love, will continue to be a blessing that endures the years.

Pearl Lefkowitz

Pearl Lefkowitz - May 03, 2018 at 03:43 PM



“ 74 files added to the album Life Tributes



DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory - April 30, 2018 at 03:53 PM