



Patricia Joseph

January 29, 1937 - March 25, 2026

Our mother, Patricia Ann Duffy Joseph peacefully passed away Wednesday, March 25th at 7:29am. Though sudden, it was a moment she had prepared for with her loved ones. A blessing as far as transitions go.

Patricia, born January 29, 1937, to Claire Rodgers, and raised by her birth mother's brother Francis and his wife Ann, in Eureka, California. Pat was blessed to have such loving and providing parents. Raised an only child and attending San Francisco Catholic Schools, Patricia was a beautiful, fearless, socially dynamic, young woman.

She attended Humboldt State University, where she met James Joseph, star football player and soon to be world-renowned marine scientist.

James (Jimmy) was the youngest of 13 children, from East Los Angeles, born to Syrian Maronite Catholic immigrant parents. Patricia went from a very comfortable, geographically isolated upbringing, into a daunting new world that included Jimmy's massive, loving and loyal family of war heroes, Mothers Superior, union organizers, and phenomenal cooks. In this atmosphere, she developed her own matriarchal sensibilities and a prowess in fierce family loyalty.

Jimmy, with his new bride of a month, took a job for the Inter-American

Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) in Manta, Ecuador. A frightening and hard move for anyone, and a culturally dramatic leap from Eureka: turning on kitchen lights to see tarantulas covering the refrigerator, escaping bandits, an immersive master class in Spanish, and being the only young American woman in an environment that was very foreign to her.

After two years in Ecuador, family planning brought them home to the USA: the birth of their first son, followed by new jobs in San Diego, the birth of their second son, a doctoral degree for Jim at the University of Washington in Seattle, and ultimately a return to La Jolla, where Jim became the director of the IATTC at Scripps Institute of Oceanography.

Patricia, with two young boys, moved through a world of international geopolitics and science, in which she juggled months home alone with young children and being the educated, beautiful face of conservation diplomacy, alongside her husband, now Dr. James Joseph.

Her ability to meet people with compassion and empathy, coupled with a refusal to back down from anyone anywhere, led to a remarkable life, like fishing a Montana River with Jim dining with the Japanese emperor within the course of a week or living a particularly long year in New Zealand. Their shared ability to move between East LA family, old Humboldt friends, neighbors at home and during their time living abroad, and global leaders with the same respect, curiosity and grace was an extraordinary thing to behold.

Her life was primarily dedicated to her sons. Michael, the younger son, followed his father into international fisheries, from tuna boat captain to consulting for world leaders. Jerry, the elder son, went into entertainment, perhaps inspired by Patricia's Christmas carol piano skills.

Patricia Joseph, simply said, led a remarkable life. She visited 140 countries,

a passion for travel that continued beyond Jim's passing in 2009. Her reach of loyal and loving friends extended to all corners of the planet. She took immense joy in her close connections with her grandchildren, whom she adored and mentored till the end of her life. She read extensively, had strong political opinions and volunteered for decades as an ombudsman. She was a beloved daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, aunt, in-law, friend, consigliere and advocate. She moved seamlessly from jungle shantytowns to opulent palaces.

When handed the menu for life choices, Pat ordered it all: appetizers, main courses, excellent wines and desserts. With dignity and love, Patricia Joseph squeezed every ounce out of life in this world. Without debate, the world is a better place from her being part of it.

She is loved and mourned, by her sons and family: Michael, his wife Miranda, children Kyra and Brian. Jerry, his wife Teri, children Thai, Chae, Judah and Anjali, grandchildren, Ro, Tori, Amari and Trae. Naming all the nieces, nephews, their families would take many pages.

She was a gift to us all, and now, God has called her home for her next adventure. We look forward to seeing her and Jimmy again, in a light of love. We are devastated by her passing and endlessly grateful for her presence in our lives.

A service will be held April 8th, in Menlo Park, Ca. In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes memorial donations to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

APR 8. 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM (PT)

St Raymond Catholic Church
1100 Santa Cruz Ave
Menlo Park, CA 94025
barry@sacredspacememorial.com

Graveside

APR 8. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (PT)

Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery
1975 Santa Cruz Ave
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Tribute Wall

GW

“ Pat was such an important part of our Cooking Club, which started in about 1970. Her sense of adventure never ceased to amaze me. In January 1977 my former husband, Ted, and I visited New Zealand. That was when Jim and Pat were there, too. I remember being at the Huka Lodge on the North Island, we had had dinner, and Pat came and knocked on our door and whispered to me that it was her 40th birthday. I'll never forget it or forget her. Gayle Wilson

Gayle E. Wilson - April 14 at 05:31 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Patricia Joseph.



April 06 at 07:41 PM



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

April 06 at 07:41 PM

VS

“ Aunt Pat was a beautiful and kind woman who loved to be a part of the Joseph Family. However overwhelming the Joseph Family may have been, she enthusiastically participated and supported everyone and every gathering. She loved and respected each of her brothers and sisters in law and treated all of her nephews and niece's with love and generosity.

Her laughter was a joy. I so admired her sense of style and the ease with which she managed a wide range of social, environmental and international environments from Ecuador to La Jolla. Such an accomplished woman with a big heart.

Jerry, Michael I know you and your beautiful families wil miss her deeply. I believe she will always be with you in Spirit.

I will miss you Aunt Pat. I am so grateful you have been such a big part of my life.

Virginia Soderman - April 01 at 09:23 PM

MJ

My mother-in-law was a remarkable woman. When I married into this enormous loving and boisterous family 35 years ago, she was my master class in navigating a BIG and complicated family Social order. “ if you can't remember their name, I love you sweetheart will do”. I followed her lead.

She was one of the all-time best grandparents along with her husband jim . This was probably her greatest joy in life ...❤️👍

May she rest in peace. Give our love to Grampa J💙💙💙

Miranda Joseph

Miranda Joseph - April 04 at 10:21 AM