



## Patsy Bridges Wray

May 1, 1938 - March 5, 2018

Patsy Jenelle Bridges Wray, 79, of Hot Springs passed away Monday March 5, 2018 after a long bout with Alzheimer's Disease.

She is survived by her husband of 59 years, Bill Wray, son; Larry Wray, and sister Brenda Matthews.

Patsy was born in Arkadelphia, AR but was raised in Warren, AR where she was crowned Miss Pink Tomato. She attended William Woods College, Hendrix College and Henderson State University where she graduated. She enjoyed a successful career as a school teacher and was honored when she was named teacher of the year in Texas. Patsy was a lover of recipes, reading, and spending time at the family cabin in Creede, CO.

She loved her friends and family with a passion and will be missed by many.

# Comments

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“ All day I have been wishing my sweet friend a Happy Heavenly Birthday! I find it hard to remember when Patsy was not a part of my life, but we were probably about six and their family lived in Benton. Alfred worked for Tyndall Dickinson and Mildred and my mother were members of a "Ladies Club", so naturally Pat and I were exposed to each other and formed a friendship which endured long after the Bridges moved. We had summer trips to visit each other in Benton and Warren and even once when they were at the farm at Arkadelphia...loved that big old barn!

I was so happy when Pat came to Henderson and we re-connected, became real Sisters in sorority with boyfriends who were Kappa Sigs. Billy and she married in August before my Bill and I married in September and we were bridesmaids for each other and as only fate would happen...we had chosen the exact wedding gown from Pfeifers Dept. Store in Little Rock...what a surprise!

We didn't see much of each other during the next couple of decades. Both busy with young family, moving here and there and just living. Finally, she and Billy came 'Home' to Arkansas and we were once again able to enjoy happy times and make some more sweet memories which will endure until we are united once more by God's Grace. I am eternally grateful for the friendship and love we shared.

**Donna McCormick** - May 01, 2018 at 08:10 PM

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“ I knew Patsy through her husband Bill. She was always glad to see me going with Bill on our many hunting trips because I understood his diabetes and knew what to do if things got out of control. I also remember visiting them at their home in Creede, CO. Patsy looked forward to making biscuits and pancakes for me. They were made from scratch, no box ingredients from her. She was a warm and gracious host and I will truly miss her warm smile and friendly attitude to all. God bless you Patsy, you will be missed.



**Wayne Wendel** - April 27, 2018 at 10:43 AM

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“ Hello, I am Norma Storms - I knew Patsy way back in the 60's when we both taught at Somerville Elementary School in Ridgewood, NJ. She was an enthusiastic person. I know her students must have loved having her for a teacher. Some of us teachers had a bridge group. We played at each other's homes once a month. It was fun to talk about our families. I think she moved away because her husband, Bill, was transferred--- not sure where. It's been a long time. I wish I would have gone to see Bill and Patsy in their gorgeous home in Crede, CO. Thank you, Bill, for including me in your very special tribute that arrived in my mail box yesterday. I have no idea who all those people are in the group picture. I love the picture on the back with Patsy being funny. She knew how to make you happy.

**norma storms** - April 15, 2018 at 07:50 PM

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“ We always loved being with Patsy and Billy and everybody else too! Patsy and Lynda never let us rest on our laurels either! Evenings together usually ended in some pickin and some singing. Just loved those times but mostly Patsy, Billy, Lynda, Rex and all the kids.

**Maggie Smith** - April 14, 2018 at 04:30 PM

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“ I have so many wonderful memories of Patsy Wray, from my childhood all the way to adulthood. Because of our common love of Creede, Colorado; this is one of my favorites:

Billy and Patsy had just purchased the Victoria Lode just outside of Creede and could not wait to build their dream home. They spent their first summer “living the dream” in what Patsy would refer to as their “Casita” (think Tiny Home).

Patsy always loved to cook and was great at it. She and Billy set up a fully equipped “outdoor kitchen” outfitted with a gas burning cook-top, “running” water to do the dishes and any other little kitchen necessities you can imagine. Paul and I were invited to spend an evening camping on the Wray’s little slice of heaven. We arrived early to pitch our tent and then enjoyed a delicious meal with great company. I think of the Wrays when we are in Creede, especially since they introduced my parents to that very special place I adore. They will always hold a special place in my heart and I will miss my Miss Patsy!!

Jennifer Easter Harrison

Jennifer Harrison - March 14, 2018 at 03:50 PM



“ When I first met Patsy I was expecting “Larry’s mother” the woman Larry had taken great pains to assure me was low key and not that comfortable with strangers. So, when Larry and I talked about him bringing his mother for a visit when she came to Los Angeles, he took great pains to prepare me for a low key woman who was a little shy and hesitant about meeting strangers. Imagine my surprise when I answered the door and before it was even half open, a dynamo of a woman pushed it open, gave me a big hug and said “Hi, i’m Patsy and i’m A hugger!”. She was warm, charming and an event unto herself. She proceeded to talk non-stop about Larry and was obviously so proud him. Few people are able to connect with strangers quickly and effortlessly; Patsy was one of those people. She loved her son and loved the people in his world. She was a proud mother of a loving son. Meeting her was a gift that I will treasure slways.

**Dr. Judith Segal** - March 18, 2018 at 10:51 PM



“ Patsy was a beautiful woman. I remember how excited we all were when she, Billy and Larry would drive home for the holidays from Riveredge, NJ. I stayed with them when I was 12 at their Cape Cod style home on Kinderkamack Road with Mildred (her mother), Brenda (her sister) and Peggy (her friend from Warren). One of her favorite restaurants then was the Walpack Inn.

Those were fun times together. Rest in Peace, Patsy Jenelle Bridges Wray.

- Linda Leigh Wray

**Linda Leigh Wray** - March 23, 2018 at 01:32 PM



“ Whoa! It’s weird to wake up and not have my mother on this planet anymore. It’s startling actually.

I type this while I hold back the flood of tears that I know will come soon. I’m not quite ready to invite them yet. I suspect they will crash my party when I least expect them. After they leave, I’ll be glad they came. So, here is the only son’s abbreviated tribute to his mother, Patsy Jenelle Bridges Wray.

Lately, I've been looking at old pictures and I am reminded that Mom made sure that I had the greatest toys, clothes that fit (and later, clothes that ROCKED!), visits with my Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles, and really good food. As a child, I recall having been proud of how pretty she was. I would look at her college yearbooks and wonder if she had aspirations to be Miss America at that time. Mom was very stylish and had great taste in clothes, accessories and furnishings. She introduced me to Neiman-Marcus where we spent many happy days shopping, eating at the Magic Pan and going to the movies. Yes, she took me to see Star Wars IV. Often, she and I would share secret looks and burst out laughing without saying anything. I really miss those moments. As I got older, Mom would always sit in the closest row possible whenever I was performing on stage. Her signature "Here I am!" Hanky-Wave" is something I am not likely to ever forget. Nor her fellow theater patrons.

Every Christmas was expectantly memorable. Baby and primary school years with her, Dad, and members from all sides of the family. Teen years, decorating the tree with Laurie Pasteur. Coming home from college at Christmas was also fun. There were the few at Disneyland, when Mom would wave her now-famous hanky as I sang with the Dicken's Carolers on the Main Street Station platform. And for the last 20 years, Christmas was with Mom and Dad at the Creede cabin and with Steve, my husband of 20+ years. She always welcomed us with her big hugs and served up a Christmas feast.

Mom also taught me the importance of a good education and went above and beyond to help me through school. She also made certain that I was provided a college education and that I earned my degree; She herself having been an A Student and a devoted School Teacher. If you see any grammatical errors in this copy, it isn't from her lack of trying to teach me. I can hear her reciting all of the tenses of the word "Lay." Lay, Laid, Lain... I never could master those. So, I avoid them all together. Wait... Altogether?

Those who knew us well knew that we had a roller-coaster ride of a relationship; Both of us ferociously trying to carve the other into what we each thought the other should be. Uh... Zero success rate.

Mercifully, we shared an honest heart-felt moment when we hung up the claws and committed to boarding "It's a Small World" and to love each other for who we were, instead of loving our visions of the perfect mother and the perfect son. That singular peace-making event is what keeps me sane through this unavoidable time of grief. (And, mixed metaphors do wonders keeping the tears at bay).

I remember Mom once joked, "Well, at least I taught you good manners." I know she realizes now that she taught me a lot more than that.

I'll miss her words of greeting, "Hello, Love of My Life!"  
I'll miss her words of farewell, "Be Particular! Ya Hear?"  
- Larry Wray

**Larry Wray** - March 23, 2018 at 01:56 PM



“ Patsy Janelle Bridges Wray was a force of nature. Like a blue norther in Texas, or a Florida hurricane, she made you take notice. She had beauty, style, creativity and an enormous zest for life. What a sweet lady! I am so honored to have known her and to have had some of her love and light sent my way. God bless you and good bye, sweet Patsy. We will miss you always.

- Linda Nail Pool

**Linda Nail Pool** - April 13, 2018 at 06:12 PM



“ The lovely card is a wonderful way to honor Patsy. Thank you for sending us one. She will be dearly missed. Patsy was a gorgeous lady with a beautiful smile who never met a stranger. I remember how she loved to acquire antiques and the collection of items she had in your home in Euleess. I read in Larry's tribute that she was a stickler for grammar, I remember her as the gal who taught me that "antique" was not only an adjective and noun, but also a verb as in, "I love to go antiquing!" Patsy Wray, we know you are in a much better place, may your soul Rest In Peace.

**Jessica Lian Johnston** - April 16, 2018 at 04:52 PM