



# Patricia "Pat" Bonardi

MAY 26, 1939 - FEB 22, 2026



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## **Patricia "Pat" Bonardi**

MAY 26, 1939 - FEB 22, 2026

**P**atricia "Pat" Bonardi died peacefully on Sunday, February 22, at her home in Leesburg, VA, following a long illness.

Pat was born in Brooklyn, NY, on May 26, 1939, the second of three children, to Helen and Martin Doyle. Her siblings, Ellen McCartney and Martin (Maureen) Doyle, survive her. She was proud of her Irish heritage and her family who emigrated from Ireland in the early twentieth century. Her close extended family spent summer vacations at Breezy Point where Pat and her cousin Tom once won the annual Freckle Contest.

She was smart and ambitious and worked throughout high school in a neighborhood pharmacy and considered becoming a pharmacist, but after graduating St. John's University turned to banking and worked at Manufacturers Hanover, where she met her first husband Kent Simons. She was forced to leave the bank when her first pregnancy became visible. Recognizing the sexism, she still took pride in the fact that her employers let her stay on longer than other pregnant women because she was such a good employee, whom they had been planning to promote.

Pat and Kent moved to Westfield, NJ, and were living there when their marriage ended. A single mother with five children under the age of 12, she embarked on a job search, still unusual in the 1970s. She was hired by The Prudential Insurance Company in Newark and quickly demonstrated her intelligence, commitment, and diligence. She was well respected by her peers and superiors as an important contributor in whatever role she was in. Pat retired from The Prudential as a Vice President in Corporate Services. Given her unconventional path into the corporate world, she rightfully felt a deep satisfaction in her success.

Pat married her second husband, Dante Bonardi, in 1985. They met at a tennis event for singles over 40 and tennis remained a shared passion for many years. With Dan she was able to enjoy



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traveling especially to Italy and Great Britain. They took courses at Drew University and spent summers with extended family at LBI. Their marriage lasted 40 years until Dan's death in February 2025.

She was deeply loved for her kindness, loyalty, and sense of humor. If she became active in an organization, she often found herself one of its leaders. She always had a plan and wanted to be productive and helpful and practical. She held herself to high standards, always saying she could have done something better, or she would try harder next time. She cared deeply about social justice and the current political climate. She loved to read and followed politics and sports, especially tennis, closely. She was a put together lady, who always had her hair combed, make-up and earrings on no matter how badly she felt physically.

Pat is survived and deeply missed by her children Tracey (Donald), Kevin (Kaylanee), Kim (David), and Amy (Matt), as well as Erika, the wife of her beloved son David who predeceased her.

She had 10 grandchildren Olivia (Jacob), James, Luke, Catherine, Eleanor, Tess, Logan, Dash, Marcelo, and Veronica, along with step-daughters Diane (Mark), Denise, and AnnMarie (Salvatore), who also remember her.

Donations in Pat's name can be made to the Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library, an organization she was involved with for many years.

A celebration of her life will be held in New Jersey later this year.



## Tribute Wall

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D

**Diane Davies** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

I'm not entirely sure what the occasion was, but in that Westfield kitchen long ago, we clearly had something to celebrate, happy to welcome Pat into the family as a new Bonardi girl. For over 40 years she was a loving and wonderful wife to our father. I will always admire her intelligence, courage and strength in the face of life's challenges and losses. Rest in peace, Pat - the Bonardi girls won't be the same without you ❤️ xx



March 7 at 8:50 AM

AB

**Ann Bonardi** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Dante and Pat looking very elegant at Diane's wedding in England.



March 4 at 8:46 PM

LM

**Lynne Mendez** posted:

I had been very fond of my aunt Pat Bonardi, despite the traveling distance between us! We had grown closer together as time went on. She was just a phone call away! Always offering kind words and encouragement! My fondest memories of her were when My parents had driven us, Me and my brother Mark into Westfield N.J. to celebrate Thanksgiving with her and her family. She set a "mean" table! Huge Turkey and everything from Soup to Nuts! As a young girl, Each Thanksgiving the Movie The Wizard of Oz would be on the Television. All of the children sat and watched while Aunt Pat would attend to the dinner preparations. One Thanksgiving, After I had married my late husband, Larry. Aunt Pat invited us For Thanksgiving dinner. I rode in with my parents. Larry had to work earlier that day. He ended up skidding onto a medium due to snowy weather. He was stuck the Medium for hours. He missed the main meal, but there were plenty of leftovers! Thank you, Aunt Pat, for touching my life in so many ways! I miss you! Love your niece Lynne.

March 4 at 10:39 AM

A

**Aruno (Joe Davies)** posted:

I'll remember Pat for her quiet, powerful, and constant kindness. Even in the last months of her illness, she would send me messages that were deeply caring, full of appreciation for those around her, and with little thought of herself. Reading her obituary, I learnt for the first time about many of her accomplishments - she was too modest to tell me herself.

March 4 at 6:19 AM



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FW

**Florence Wetzel** posted:

Pat was the mother of my dear friend Tracey, and she was a kind, generous woman with a sharp mind. She always made me feel at home whenever I visited. My favorite memories of her are sitting and talking over tea, or hanging out with her extended clan. And then of course there's the memory of her dancing to James Brown wearing knee-high Christmas socks o. She will be missed.

March 4 at 2:48 AM

DB

**Denise Bonardi** sent a virtual gift in honor of Patricia "Pat".



March 2 at 9:19 PM

DB

**Denise Bonardi** sent a virtual gift in honor of Patricia "Pat".

MAY YOUR ANGEL WINGS TAKE YOU OVER THE RAINBOW WHERE SKIES ARE BLUE AND DREAMS COME TRUE. YOU AND DAD ARE TOGETHER AGAIN. R.I.P. MISS YOU DENISE



March 2 at 9:19 PM

AB

**Ann Bonardi** lit a candle in honor of Patricia "Pat".

Pat was a wonderful wife to my father and a loving presence in our lives. I gave her a pair of earrings for Christmas one year, and she would wear them almost every time we came to visit, just to show me how much she liked them. A small gesture but very kind.

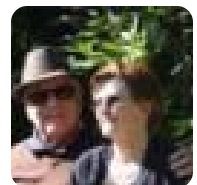


March 2 at 6:52 PM

AB

**Ann Bonardi** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

A lovely day with Dan and Pat at Grounds for Sculpture.



March 2 at 6:41 PM



## Media

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Diane Davies shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

March 7 at 8:50 AM





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## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Patricia "Pat" by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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