



## Patricia M. "Pat" Hilty

March 30, 1943 - December 9, 2024

A Funeral Service for Pat was held Wednesday, December 18, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at Messiah Lutheran Church in Lincoln, Nebraska. Pastor Dustin Lappe presided over the Funeral Service.

The recorded selections "Amazing Grace," "Jealous Of The Angels," "10000 Reasons," and "In The Garden" were played for the service.

Pallbearers included Blake Nielsen, Zachary Nielsen, Tyler Nielsen, Tanner Bernard, Davis Harding, Conner Harley, A.J. Muthersbaugh, and Trent Jakob.

A Graveside Service was held at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 18, 2024 at Fairmont Public Cemetery, Fairmont, Nebraska.

Memorials are suggested to the Aging Partners - Northeast Senior Center in Lincoln, Nebraska or the Fillmore County Museum in Fairmont, Nebraska.

Patricia Marina Vandevoorde Hilty, 81, passed away peacefully on December 9, 2024, in Fort Myers, Florida. Known lovingly as "Pat," she was born on March 30, 1943, to Philip and Rose (Castiglia) Vandevoorde in Kearney, Nebraska.

She grew up in Kearney, Nebraska, and graduated with the Kearney High

School Class of 1961. After high school, Pat attended secretarial courses and began her career at Northwestern Bell Telephone Company. It was at this time where she met her future husband, Larry Hilty Jr., over a bowl of chili and Fritos. Although initially opposed by Larry's parents, their determination led them to cross state lines to marry in Michigan. From their union, four children were born: Lawrence Hilty III ("Little Larry"), Sabrina Nielsen, Sally Bernard, and Susan Harley.

The family eventually settled in Fairmont, Nebraska, where Pat became an integral part of the community. She worked a variety of jobs, including as a waitress at Stockman's, a bookkeeper at Geneva Implement, and as the owner and operator of Hilty's Grocery Store in Fairmont and Geneva.

Pat had a passion for genealogy, local history, and community service. She was instrumental in securing new band uniforms for Fairmont Public School and played a key role in the development of the Ashby Museum now Fillmore County Museum. This 'Foxy Lady' known by her CB radio handle "Sky Bird" Pat, was a resourceful and dedicated woman who believed no project was too big.

In her spare time, Pat enjoyed hobbies like working on stained glass, attending car shows, and dancing. A woman of many talents, she even pursued belly dancing in her 40s. As a child, she loved roller skating, a joy that stayed with her throughout her life.

Pat's caring nature extended to her family, friends, and community. She was always there to lend a helping hand, whether it was supporting local causes or being there for those in need.

Due to health challenges, Pat moved to Lincoln, Nebraska in 2011, where she cherished time with her friends at the Northeast Aging Partners Center and

her church community.

Pat was preceded in death by her son, Lawrence “Little Larry” Hilty III; her parents, Rose and Philip Vandevoorde; and her brother, Philip Vandevoorde Jr.

She is survived by her daughters, Sabrina and Kevin Nielsen of Oxford, Nebraska, Sally and Tommy Bernard of Kearney, Nebraska, Susan and Jim Harley of Lincoln, Nebraska; sister-in-law, Reva Vandevoorde of Wahoo, Nebraska; and former husband, Larry Hilty, Jr. of Kearney, Nebraska.

Pat was also the proud grandmother of 12 grandchildren: Blake, Zach, Tyler, McKenzie, Tanner, Hannah, Hailey, Conner, Averie, Olivia, Addison, and Reagan. She also leaves behind 11 great-grandchildren: Madelyn, Finnlea, Whitt, Nash, Maverick, Leland, Blair, Berkley, Jovie, Merritt, and Royce; nieces, nephews, and many friends.

Pat will be remembered as a dynamic and generous woman whose love for her family and community touched the lives of many.

# Cemetery Details

## Fairmont Public Cemetery

Fairmont, NE

# Previous Events

## Family Present for Visitation

DEC 17. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Farmer & Son Funeral Home  
242 N 10th Street  
Geneva, NE 68361  
(402) 759-3617  
<https://farmerandsonfuneralhome.com>

## Visitation

DEC 17. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Farmer & Son Funeral Home  
242 N 10th Street  
Geneva, NE 68361  
(402) 759-3617  
<https://farmerandsonfuneralhome.com>

## Funeral Service

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DEC 18. 10:00 AM (CT)

Messiah Lutheran Church  
1800 South 84th Street  
Lincoln, NE 68506

## Graveside Service

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DEC 18. 12:30 PM (CT)

Fairmont Public Cemetery  
Fairmont, NE

# Tribute Wall



“ 2 files added to the album Flower Picture



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - December 20, 2024 at 09:26 AM



“ 44 files added to the album Flower pictures



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - December 18, 2024 at 02:37 PM

AL

“ I always enjoyed going to Jim and Susie's house and visiting with Pat. Pat had a heart of gold and spoke of her many blessings. She was immensely proud of her family and grandchildren and so thankful to share a home and see her family daily.

I cried when I heard Pat passed away. I very rarely cry in life. I was asked why I was crying and affected in such a way. My answer was that Pat was one of the rare people in life that genuinely cared, encouraged, and made me feel like I was special.

Pat was so thoughtful and always had a genuine interest and asked how I was doing. That is a typical question that people ask each other. But with Pat you could tell that she really listened, cared, and spoke from her heart and offered great words of wisdom. She always conveyed warmth along with her fun sense of humor! I am going to miss you Pat. You will be missed.

Be with God and enjoy Heaven! I am truly blessed to have been your friend and you will always be remembered!

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Alan - December 18, 2024 at 08:59 AM

RE

“ Pat was one beautiful kind person she truly enjoyed riding on the senior bus I drove for aging partners. We did so much going to shows. Going to see the Christmas lights around town in Lincoln. I am so grateful God placed her in my in my life. Pat had numerous friends she enjoyed playing cards with and bingo. I will always cherish the memories. she loved her family a lot she spoke of them often. Pat could never be away to long from the Northeast Senior Center. I also have to share she always talked of her beautiful car.. she was so proud of that. One day I got to see it and rightly so it was amazing. To the family my thoughts and prayers are with you all.

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Red - December 17, 2024 at 03:34 PM



“ *Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Patricia M. "Pat" Hilty.*



December 17, 2024 at 02:55 PM



“ *Ceic Neiman & Family purchased the Heavenly Heights Bouquet for the family of Patricia M. "Pat" Hilty.*



**Ceic Neiman & Family** - December 15, 2024 at 05:19 PM



“ *Alan and Kelly Muthersbaugh purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Patricia M. "Pat" Hilty.*



**Alan and Kelly Muthersbaugh** - December 14, 2024 at 06:28 PM



“ *Virginia Johnson lit a candle in memory of Patricia Hilty*



**Virginia Johnson** - December 14, 2024 at 09:49 AM



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

December 13, 2024 at 02:07 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Patricia M. "Pat" Hilty.



December 13, 2024 at 02:07 PM



“ Diane Swerczek lit a candle in memory of Patricia Hilty



**Diane Swerczek** - December 13, 2024 at 09:24 AM



“ When we were growing up, I knew Pat as my cousin, Patty. Since my family lived in California, we didn't see each other very often. However, I do remember a time when we came to visit on our way to Minnesota. I was a teenager then. I just remember Patty and I driving around chasing boys or maybe it was that they were chasing us. I was a shy kid and Pat showed me what teenagers did for fun in Kearney, Nebraska on a Friday night. I had so much fun that night hanging out with her! Rest in peace my dear cousin Patty.  
Cousin Linda

**Linda Mangold** - December 12, 2024 at 11:19 PM

CF

“ Cassidy/Fisher Families lit a candle in memory of Patricia Hilty



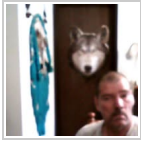
Cassidy/Fisher Families - December 12, 2024 at 06:02 PM

LI

“ Linda lit a candle in memory of Patricia Hilty



Linda - December 12, 2024 at 05:00 PM



“ New Pat, went to school with Sabrina, Sally and Suzie

Randy Nun - December 12, 2024 at 04:22 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Patricia M. "Pat" Hilty.



December 12, 2024 at 03:17 PM

JG

“ Jason george lit a candle in memory of Patricia Hilty



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Jason george - December 12, 2024 at 03:10 PM

LM

“ Linda Mitchell lit a candle in memory of Patricia Hilty



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Linda Mitchell - December 12, 2024 at 01:06 PM