



## Patrick Joseph Kavanagh

March 31, 1956 - July 9, 2025

Patrick "Pat" Kavanagh<sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub> March 31, 1956 - July 9, 2025

With heavy hearts and loving memories, we announce the passing of Patrick "Pat" Kavanagh, who died on July 9, 2025, after a valiant fight with liver disease and cancer. He was 69.

Born on March 31, 1956, in Lansing, Michigan, Pat was the son of the late John and Catherine Kavanagh. A proud graduate of Sexton High School, he went on to become a respected expert in the hydraulic hose industry, known for both his knowledge and his gift for connecting with people.

Pat was a man of many talents and deep passions. He spent many joyful years married to his late wife, Robin Swenson. Together they built a life full of laughter, love, and cherished memories. After Robin's passing, Pat found companionship again with Deb "Cookie", who remained by his side through his final moments.

In addition to his work, Pat was a skilled leatherworker who handcrafted beautiful, detailed pieces and sold them at art shows and fairs-particularly in Pentwater, one of his favorite places. He loved the outdoors, especially fishing and relaxing at the family cottage on Crystal Lake with his grandchildren. Pat also enjoyed golfing, rowdy poker nights, and competitive games of Scrabble-where his quick wit and love of words were always on full display.

Above all, Pat was known for his humor. He had a joke ready for any situation and could lift the mood of a room with a single line. His laughter was infectious, his timing impeccable, and his stories unforgettable. He made

people feel welcome, seen, and loved-and never let a moment pass without bringing a little light to it.

Pat is survived by his devoted partner, Debra "Cookie" Kavanagh; his siblings John Kavanagh, Sheila Evans, Eileen Kavanagh, Margaret Kavanagh, Thomas Kavanagh (Karen), Michael Kavanagh (Lynn), Teresa Pizana (Victor), and James Kavanagh (Roxanna); stepson Nathan Ovenhouse (Jessical Hill); grandchildren Kylie Ovenhouse (Brian) and Kayla Ovenhouse, Cecelia and Aiden; and, great-grandsons Michael Ovenhouse and Kason Cole. He is also lovingly remembered by sisters-in-law Sandy Helman and Pam Cathey, along with many nieces, nephews, and dear friends.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of many years, Robin Swenson; sisters Cathy Sheeley and Maureen Kavanagh; and numerous close friends and family who no doubt welcomed him home with open arms and laughter.

Pat lived a life rich in love, humor, and connection. He gave generously of himself-to his family, his friends, and even to strangers-leaving behind a legacy of warmth, creativity, and joy. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

A celebration of Pat's life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family encourages donations to Memorial contributions in Pat's name may be given to the HealthWell Foundation, 20440 Century Boulevard, Suite 250, Germantown, Maryland 20874 (<https://secure.healthwellfoundation.org/forms/donate>) or St. Jude's Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, Tennessee 38105 ([https://www.stjude.org/donate/donate-to-st-jude.html?sc\\_icid=header-btn-donate-now](https://www.stjude.org/donate/donate-to-st-jude.html?sc_icid=header-btn-donate-now)) or an organization of your choice.

A Celebration of Pat's life will be held Sunday, August 10, 2025 from 1-4:00 PM at the Prairie Creek Gold and Banquet, 800 E. Webb Drive, DeWitt, Michigan 48820. Arrangemenst by the Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home, Grand Ledge. Share your memories and condolences online at [www.holihanatkin.com](http://www.holihanatkin.com)



# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

AUG **10**. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Prairie Creek Golf Course & Banquet Center  
800 E. Webb Drive  
DeWitt, MI 48820

# Tribute Wall

TP

“ Pat was a big brother to only Jim and me. As Jim said, he taught us some valuable things. For me, his mentorship was more in the realm of sex, drugs, and rock and roll. I didn't always take his advice, but he gave me a good foundation to make choices. Pat helped me through some very difficult times in my life. Although making medical decisions for Pat was among some of my most difficult times, it makes me happy that he trusted me with making the best choices for him, when those decisions had to be made. I love Pat and I will miss him.

Teresa Pizana - July 17, 2025 at 06:20 AM

TP

“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



Tresa Pizana - July 17, 2025 at 05:38 AM

CO

“ I'll always remember Pat's humor, his laugh, and his positive attitude. Even towards the end, every time you'd visit him, he'd quip: "I'm better!" Last time Greg and I saw him, I blew him a kiss, and he smiled and flashed me the peace sign. Now you're at peace, my friend. ❤️🕊️

Cathy Overway - July 15, 2025 at 06:04 PM

JK

“ Pat was my closest big brother. He taught me many important things, including how to burp on demand, though I never was able to belch the entire alphabet as he could. Hero.



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Jim Kavanagh - July 15, 2025 at 11:44 AM



“ 35 files added to the album Pat



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Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home - July 15, 2025 at 11:14 AM



“ 8 files added to the tribute wall



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**Kylie LaNae** - July 12, 2025 at 12:18 PM



“ *I was sitting here thinking about Pat and a memory of Ginger the one-eyed Golden lab came to mind. Pat took her everywhere with him and he had a thousand different stories about how she lost her eye, none of them true! I do recall hearing once the real story, but I don't remember it. Pat and Robin suffered through playing Euchre with my husband and myself, as the hubby only plays about once a year, so always needs a refresher course. I'll miss playing with them. It's hard to put into words how much someone you've been good friends with for almost fifty years has left such a huge whole in your heart.*

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**Michele Bowles** - July 11, 2025 at 06:51 PM

KW

“ Pat was our harmonica player, many years ago, in our band, Backporch Revival. We all loved him. He will be missed.



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Kay (Settles) Wagener - July 11, 2025 at 04:31 PM

KW

“ Pat was our harmonica player in our band, Backporch Revival, playing every Friday night at Moriarity's Pub back in the 70's or 80's. He was a special guy; loved by many. Rest in His Peace, my friend.



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Kay (Settles) Wagener - July 11, 2025 at 03:50 PM