



Patricia "Pat" M. Smaby

January 11, 1928 - April 6, 2021

On April 6, 2021, the unthinkable happened - Patricia Mary Smaby completed her final journey. Among those who had the pleasure of knowing her, this may be hard to believe, for there was very little that could stop her. She had boundless energy, and even in her 90's, most people couldn't keep up with her. While she slowed down a bit towards the end, both on foot and in her driving, her quick wit and wonderful sense of humor were as strong as ever.

Pat was an avid traveler. Always enjoying the company of other enthusiastic travelers, she ventured out on road trips across the USA, took dozens of cruises overseas, visiting and exploring six of the seven continents on boats, trains, bikes, and even by foot.

During her earlier outings, Pat traveled as a tourist, stopping to visit for a day or two and then moving on to the next town. Once she met John, they headed out to places not normally associated with tourism, like Azerbaijan, Mongolia and Namibia, usually staying for months at a time while John continued his career. She thoroughly enjoyed this exposure to new cultures – shopping in the area supermarkets, visiting with locals and expats, and exploring all the regional sites. When she first arrived in Baku and found the dirty, dingy apartment was located on the fourth floor (with no elevator), she stated “I’m not staying in this dump”, but by the morning she reconsidered and said, “What the hell, I’m here”. She then proceeded to have a grand time as a guest

of the British Petroleum wives who were eager to have some new blood in their group.

She made lasting friends everywhere she went, from old pals in Iron Mountain to new friends throughout the world. Along with being a Life Master bridge player, she and John were learned members of the “Coasters”, an international Trivia (and drinking) team aboard cruises on the Azmara.

She leaves behind a home full of mementos for her family to sort through. An amateur hoarder, Pat liked collecting trinkets from her many travels, always keeping an eye out for Christmas and birthday presents for her friends and relatives. Pat had no problem parting with her ‘things’ – she just couldn’t find enough takers for them all. A family tradition was to always bring something home with you after visiting her; hugely popular among the grandkids, less so for their parents.

Pat was predeceased by her parents, William and Blanche Safranek of Winona, MN; her first husband, James Smaby of Iron Mountain, MI; and daughter Karen of Grand Marais, MN. She is survived by husband John Corson of Mesa, AZ; sons, Steve (Shelley) of Cleveland, NM; Mike (Mary) of Wild Rose, WI; David of Norway, MI; Pete (Tim) of Appleton, WI; and Joe (Laurie) of Jenison, MI; 15 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren and numerous cousins, step-children and great step-children; brother Bill (M’Lou) of Spokane, WA and son-in-law Dan of Grand Marais, MN.

At this time no services will be held.

The family has entrusted the care of the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home of Iron Mountain.

Tribute Wall

TL

“ *My condolences to the Smaby family. As kids playing at the house near the city park, we learned how to make maple syrup from Pat...and certainly learned patience in the process. Always nice memories.*

Tim LaCourt

Timothy LaCourt - April 13, 2021 at 08:33 PM

SM

“ *Praying for you all and remember a few of the wonderful children she raised!! God's Blessings & Comfort~*

Sandy Meier - April 13, 2021 at 05:30 PM

OW

“ *John and Smaby family,
SO very sorry to read of Pat's passing but she has now traveled to her new heavenly home. It's been many years that I've known Pat , her kindness, generosity along with golfing and of course Golden K. She will be missed by all of us who were privileged to know her, May the God of all love and Easter bless and comfort you.*

Orice Walters



Orice Walters - April 10, 2021 at 07:58 PM

KL

“ *My sincerest condolences to the Smaby family..*

Kristen Lindholm - April 10, 2021 at 11:03 AM