



## Patricia L. Bunce

October 17, 1939 - September 9, 2017

### PATRICIA BUNCE

Patricia "Patti" Bunce unexpectedly passed away in the morning of September 9, 2017. Way too soon, she left us at the age of 77

As the oldest child of Edward and Dolly Michael, Patti began her voyage in Topeka Kansas on October 17, 1939. Accompanied by her younger brother Eddie, she spent her early years traveling to Oakland, California where her father worked in the Navy shipyards supporting the war effort. It was at this time that Patti would say "my boat is so small and the ocean is so big"

After the war Patti returned to Topeka and was later joined by a new sister Jeanene. Patti attended the local schools graduating from Highland Park in 1957. It was during these years she would make many friends who have remained close to this day. It was also when she formulated her life values that made her "the salt of the earth" and bring peace and happiness to all she should meet. It was also here that Patti would have her two children: Wendy in 1960 and Mike in 1962.

Married with two children, Patti left for California arriving in Santa Barbara in 1965. While raising Mike and Wendy in the Goleta area school system, Patti worked in the Santa Barbara area. Starting with Phone Company (after transferring from Topeka) working the switchboard. Later in the Murroughs optometry office and then with Jordanos. Once again spreading joy to all she would meet. It was then that Patti sharpened her skills as a homemaker and her love for cooking, gardening, piano, and decorating. Patti even helped friends with lodging and care.

After seeing her daughter Wendy off in marriage in 1978 and son Mike to the Navy in 1981 her voyage and destination took a turn south. During the 1984 Olympics Patti met Barrett Bunce then living in Los Angeles while working as a structural engineer. Taking Barrett on her voyage, Patti married Barrett and settled in Topanga, CA. in 1988. Continuing to greet the day with a song and finding the ocean much calmer, Patti worked in retail establishments in Woodland Hills while Barrett commuted to engineering projects in Los Angeles. All the while, Patti continued her interest in decorating her tri-level home. While there Patti also enjoyed the love and affection of her ever increasing family, spending

many visits to hold and love the children and later grandchildren.

It was also there that Patti developed what affectingly became known as “Patti-isms”. For example, one of her favorite sayings was “I have so many things to forget”, as well “bunglesome” in lieu of clumsy. And of course, “card-board lips” for chatting females. Patti also honed her cooking skills; developing her famous potato salad (how she won over her husband), bread pudding and chicken pot pie.

The scenery changed, but the loving continued when Barrett and Patti moved back to Santa Barbara in 2004 and relocated to Mission Canyon. Patti was able to continue her interest in decorating (especially with wallpaper) and enhance her gardening skills. During the next 13 years as part of the now retired team, Patti was able to meet many new friends, travel, and visit her ever increasing family. It was amazing how all her new acquaintances loved Patti. Patti was so appreciated of those who lent a helping hand whenever needed.

In September of this year, happy to the end, Patti’s boat was now full and her trip concluded much too soon. With her passing she will be missed by all.

Patti is survived by her loving husband of 29 years Barrett, daughter Wendy Gipson and husband John (Bakersfield), son Mike Gates and wife Cynthia (Waconia, MN). 5 grandsons, 9 great grandchildren. Also Barrett’s 3 sons, Charlie Bunce (Lake Balboa), Brandon Bunce (Ventura), and Andy Bunce (Ventura), as well as Barrett’s 3 grandchildren. Also survived by 3 nieces, 2 nephews and brother Eddie Michael (Topeka, KS) and sister Jeanene Michael (Hudson, FLA).

A memorial Service will be held at the Welch-Ryce-Haider Chapel at 450 Ward Drive, Santa Barbara, CA on Friday September 15 at 1 pm.

# Cemetery

---

## Santa Barbara Cemetery

901 Channel Drive

Santa Barbara, CA, 93108

# Events

---

**SEP** **Memorial Service** 01:00PM

**15**

---

Welch-Ryce-Haider - Goleta

450 Ward Drive, Santa Barbara, CA, US, 93111

# Comments

---



“ My name is Roger Broughton. I went to Belvoir grade school, and Highland Park High School with Patty. I was one year ahead of her, and if my memory has not failed me too badly, I think she may have been the first girl I ever kissed. She was without doubt, the most attractive girl in our grade school, and many other boys besides myself at one time or another in grade school were smitten with Patty. I last saw her about 30 years ago when her cousin, Jerry Dick had a mini-reunion at his home in Rossville KS. I was going through some personal trauma in my life at that time, and I remember how thoughtful and caring she was to me at that reunion, getting me off by myself and asking how things were going in my life. I'm reminded of a line from the movie Stand by Me, where Richard Dreyfuss narrates a line where he laments the passing of a close friend, "I haven't seen ???? for X amount of years, but I know I will miss him terribly. Today, this is my thought about Patty.

Rest in Peace

**Roger Broughton** - September 15, 2017 at 03:43 PM

---



“ What a wonderful, talented, fun, creative, caring STRONG woman! Pat (I know, I know, I'm the only one who called her that, for 50 years!, she told me so, and told me not to stop.) Pat never made me feel like an outsider. She was the best step MOM a kid could ask for. Soooooooo many, many memories as kids with Wendy, Mike and Wendy on the weekends. She sewed dresses for me, came to my graduations. ALWAYS ALWAYS had some sort of craft project ready and waiting when we came over. Bandaged bloodied knees already dried over from skidding gravel on bike rides I wouldn't come in from..... Ever patient teaching me to crochet- which I still do to this day. And even as adults, phone conversations and visits and lunches filled with tears and laughter at the past - . . . Sorting out and letting go and remembering and smiling. Putting my hair up in 'high, high' ponytails Laughing and calling me 'little fat dancing legs' and me laughing right along with her! And in the later years - us again together admiring each other's strengths, and becoming adult friends. Oh, Pat - how you will be missed. How I will miss you. How when my mom died, you gently reminded me, I still had one..... thank you ..... Barrett, my heart breaks for you. Wendy, the pain is so real the struggle even more so when you think to yourself oh I've got to tell mom about.....and then realize. Mike, hold your memories as close as you can and take nothing for granted. Time seems a cruel thing and death a heartless one - but we know there is a promise of forever for those who believe in Jesus Christ. He opens His arms to hold us in His. He promises us a forever with no tears. An exchange of life for death.....free of charge. You are all in my prayers. I hurt and cry with you, know that. Pat, I will miss you, my other mom, my laughing buddy, my friend. ~ Crystal Murrroughs

Crystal Burris - September 15, 2017 at 01:05 PM



“ I met this lady one time and found her to be very loving and kind. Very much enjoyed my tim with her,of course, L called her Patti. Thank you for introducing her tome.

lyle burris - September 15, 2017 at 08:22 PM



“ Barrett, Wendy, Mike & Family, Mine and many more hearts are broken with the passing of sweet and funny Patti. I have wonderful memories ranging from "Aunt Patti" medicine for bug bites, which she always made sure we had on hand when Morgan and Cale were growing up, to the pot holders she made which included her personalized label. (I still use them.) Patti always treated me as family which is just a small reflection of her loving and accepting personality. RIP Patti, I love you!

Lois Michael - September 15, 2017 at 10:32 AM



“ Aunt Patti could always make me laugh. Not just a giggle but a deep down belly laugh that really makes you feel good! I may have peed my pants when I was younger laughing with her. One of my fondest memories of her was when I got to go spend the week with her. She would always make everything perfect and just feel warm. We went shopping and went to lunch. That lunch was pretty funny because she had just bought me a bare but then she spilled mustard on her shirt so she took it back to cover herself up as we walked out of the mall. She would always get me peaches n cream oatmeal not knowing what I liked but that turned out to be one of my favorite breakfasts! Oh and NO coke in the mornin she would say to me. There are so many amazing memories with her and I am so glad that I got the chance to have one big deep down belly laugh just a few months ago. I love you Aunt Patti! I will forever miss you and love you but I will see you someday and we can have those great laughs that we used to have together again. RIP Aunt Patti.  
~Leah Rodriguez

**Leah Rodriguez** - September 14, 2017 at 10:06 PM

---



“ I will love Patti forever. Colleen

**Colleen Dougan** - September 14, 2017 at 04:51 PM

---



“ Barrett, Wendy, Mike and extended family. I, as you are heartbroken with the loss of my dearest, older sister Patti. Her sweetness will be truly missed by all that knew her. I love you sis. Eddie

**Eddie Michael** - September 13, 2017 at 06:35 PM