



## Patricia "Pat" Lewis Paynter Rush Obituary

February 24, 1930 - January 23, 2013

Patricia "Pat" Lewis Paynter Rush, known for her service in many civic endeavors including 14 years as a member of Oak Ridge City Council, died Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2013, at Methodist Medical Center of Oak Ridge following a short illness. She was 82. Born Feb. 24, 1930, in Middlesboro, Ky., she was the daughter of Walker Burton and Helen Lewis Paynter, both now deceased. She graduated from Hollins College in Roanoke, Va., in 1952, with a bachelor of science degree in physics. She met her future husband, Richard M. Rush, while working as a laboratory assistant to his aunt at the University of Virginia. She and Mr. Rush were married on June 25, 1955, and moved to Oak Ridge shortly thereafter. Mr. Rush, a former member of the Oak Ridge Board of Education, died in 1996.

Mrs. Rush became very involved in Oak Ridge activities as a civic leader and volunteer. Soon after moving here she joined the ORCMA Chorus and the choir at First Presbyterian Church and continued singing with both groups for many years. She also served as a member of the church Session from 1981 to 1983, and on the board of directors of the Oak Ridge Civic Music Association.

In 1979 she joined Altrusa International, serving the local organization as president in 1984 and 1985 and also as District Four treasurer from 1989 to 1991.

Mrs. Rush's proudest civic accomplishment, the family said, was being elected to City Council in 1987 and serving for 14 years. She had also been a member of numerous organizations and boards.

For the past six years, she had been a resident of Greenfield of Oak Ridge, where the family said she thoroughly enjoyed her time, making new friends and playing bridge. The absolute love of her life was her only grandchild, Emily Lewis Jenkins of Oak Ridge, who survives her. Mrs. Rush is also survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Helen Lewis and Jimmy Jenkins of Oak Ridge; and her son and daughter-in-law, John and Laurie Thompson Rush who live on a horse farm in Walland; her brother, Walker Burton Paynter Jr. of Morristown; and 10 nieces and nephews.

Ali Swofford and Connie Larimer were considered special friends.

The family wishes to thank the staff at Methodist Medical Center for the loving care they gave Mrs. Rush during the last two weeks.

The family will receive friends from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26, 2013, at First Presbyterian Church in Oak Ridge. The funeral will start at 2 p.m. Saturday with the Reverend Sharon Youngs officiating. Burial will follow at Oak Ridge Memorial Park. The family requests that any memorials be in the form of gifts to Altrusa International of Oak Ridge, P.O. Box 5763, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-5763; or to First Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 6106, Oak Ridge, TN 37831.

# Comments

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“ Helen, So sorry to have read about your mom. Did not know until today when on line looking at the obits. Barry and I have had two great losses recently also; Barry's dad and Mama Sick. Plus heart attack for Barry last July. Just know that we are thinking and praying for you and your brother and of course Emily. Thinking of you.

Margie Haun - Lake City, TN - Friend - May 12, 2014 at 12:00 AM

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“ I am so blessed to have known Pat. She was one of the most generous and giving people I have known. She was always a bright spot at the Altrusa meetings and always had a "Happy Dollar" to share. I was fortunate to see her on Christmas Eve at Greenfield at which time she professed being happy and grateful and commented on the good meal that she had just enjoyed. She was looking forward to her birthday in Feb. and told me to mark my calendar and "see you soon"...such a positive attitude. I'll miss her.

Marla Lenihan

Marla Lenihan - Oak Ridge, TN - friend and fellow Altrusan - January 30, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ HELEN JUDY AND I ARE SO SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS. WE THOUGHT A LOT OF YOUR MOTHER. SHE WAS A WONDERFUL PERSON. WE FOUND OUT ABOUT HER PASSING YERSTERDAY.

BUD&JUDY

Judy Jenkins&BUDDY JENKINS - January 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ Pat felt everyone should live in Oak Ridge. She love this city and served well. She was an advocate for education and was an education just to be around her and soak up all of her wisdom and kindness. I saw Pat three times Just prior to Christmas till her illness. Her wit and love never changed.

Dee Crumm - Oak Ridge, TN - Friend - January 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ Dear Helen & John,  
It saddens me to hear your Mom passed away. You were all special neighbors and friends. She was such a kind and generous person. We thought of her as "Our second Mom!" I remember Mom only wanted us to drink one coke a day and she told me, Now don't you go over to Mrs. Rush's and drink hers!" She knew your Mom always opened up her house to us and that you were welcome to eat and drink whatever you wanted. We will never forget her generosity and everything she did for us. If we ever had a problem at our house, I remember she was the first one to come over to see if there was anything she could do You will all always be special to us.  
Lot's of memories! Please know you are in our thoughts and prayer's. May God help you find peace during this difficult time. We love you!  
Sincerely,  
Val & Phil Richards

Val Richards - Deltona, FL - Friend & Neighbor - January 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ Helen,  
I'm so sorry to hear about your mom. You'll be in my thoughts and prayers.  
Colleen

Colleen Cardwell - Clinton, TN - friend - January 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ To all of Pat's family---

Pat was an amazing woman, and she will be missed so very much--- not only by you, but by everyone whose life she touched, and that's many, many lives.  
My association with Pat was through Altrusa; she was much loved and respected by all of us in this organization. We will miss her greatly!  
On behalf of all the members of Altrusa of Oak Ridge, I extend my deepest sympathy to all of you for your loss.  
Sincerely,  
  
Marci Willison

Marci Willison - Oak Ridge, TN - Fellow Altrusan - January 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ The first time I saw Pat was in the 1st grade of Miss Wilson's Class. She was dressed in a white Sailor's outfit, which was unusual attire for Middlesboro. We became closer friends when we moved to Cumberland Ave. & living behind the Paynters House. Pat taught me to ride her small bike - learning to "Jump" the greatly cracked side walks due to the large trees. There was a garage behind her house where we went to smoke the Corn Silks we rolled into cigarettes. Pat often had Over- nights with the Girl Friends -staying up late & telling jokes. Her House was always a gathering place to play records & Dance after Ball games. During the summers, a group of us would get together & climb the face of Pinnacle Mountain, or go to the quarry & climb the rock piles & find Butter nuts to crack & eat, or to take home We Graduated from High School in 1948 and went to our Colleges of Choice, but managed to get together on School breaks. Pat was a Wonderful Friend and I shall miss her.

**Sarah Heaton Limpert - Middlesboro, KY - School Friend** - January 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ "Patsy" and I were friends, classmates and very close during our school years in Middlesboro. I will always cherish her friendship and memories. I am sorry for your loss.

**Charles Percy - Smyrna, TN - classmates** - January 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ Blessings on the family as you cope with this loss. I was a high school classmate and friend of Patsy

**Dorris Reynolds Smith Gillespie - Morehead City, NC - classmate** - January 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ Pat is a very giving person and helped many people. I hope we can have a Pat Rush Scholarship in Altrusa. Louise Mixon

**Louise Mixon - Oak Ridge/Kingston, TN - Friend and Altrusa Sister** - January 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ I have known Pat since the 6th grade and played in the trumpet section of the MHS band with her until graduation. My thoughts and prayers are with the family, she will be missed. Damon and Jackie Frost

**Damon Frost - Gainesville, GA - Classmate MHS** - January 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ So sorry for your loss. Pat was a good friend.

**Don Emmett - Middlesboro, KY - MHS classmate** - January 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ One of the first things Pat asked me was to let her know how she could help me. Pat welcomed me and was one of my sponsors when I joined Altrusa. She was a beautiful person who practiced unconditional love and acceptance. She was always serving others. Through her generosity, as just one example of her contributions, Altrusa was able to provide scholarships to young women in our community in need who were seeking to further their education. She will be missed by so many. Wishing you peace and comfort in your loss.

**Laura Carrington Duckett - Knoxville, TN - Friend and Fellow Altrusan** - January 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM