



Mary Pat Boatfield

December 20, 1949 - June 18, 2014

Mary Pat Boatfield, 64, passed away unexpectedly on June 18, 2014, in Hallsville, Missouri, where she was serving as the executive director of the Central Missouri Humane Society.

Born on December 20, 1949, in Toledo, Mary Pat was the oldest child of Robert F. and Adelia (Riley) Boatfield. She was educated at St. Ursula Academy and the University of Toledo, where she earned bachelors and masters degrees in education. Before working in Missouri, Mary Pat served as the executive director of the Toledo Area Humane Society and the Nashville (TN) Humane Association.

Mary Pat's compassion, tireless advocacy and sense of humor earned her the respect of colleagues and the love of friends and family. She was a national leader in animal welfare education and advocacy, known for addressing tough issues and promoting change to benefit whole communities. For example, she created the nationally-credentialed Disaster Animal Response Team (DART) to respond to Hurricane Katrina and other emergencies such as Hurricane Ike, tornados and the 2010 Nashville flood.

Mary Pat believed in quality of life for everyone – people and animals – and worried about the safety of our food supply. She put her beliefs to work through active membership in professional and community organizations and by volunteering with local homeless shelters in Toledo, Nashville and Columbia (MO), where she spent nights at the shelter assisting with the needs of the less fortunate.

As a daughter, sister, aunt and friend, Mary Pat was both a grounding force and source of light. She pursued her causes with a passion tempered by the reality that it took hard work to create real change. She knew the struggles of life firsthand and believed in the miracle of prayer. She stood by anyone who needed her, as long as they needed her, for whatever they needed. And anyone who wandered into Mary Pat's wide circle knew the light of her Irish smile and the cackle of her laugh. For these, and for so many other reasons, she will be missed.

Mary Pat is preceded in death by her mother, father and brother, Robert. She is survived by her sister, Ann (Dave) Sweeny, Ottawa Lake, MI; her sister-in-law Donna Boatfield of Carrollton, TX; niece Rachael (Chris) Baldwin of Dexter, MI; her nephews J.B. (Lindy) Boatfield, of Atlanta, GA, and Joseph Boatfield of Carrollton, TX; and many great-nieces and nephews.

Friends may call at the Coyle Funeral Home 1770 S. Reynolds Rd. Thursday July 10th from 2-8 p.m. The service will begin in the mortuary Friday July 11th at 9:45 a.m. followed by the funeral ceremony at 10:30 a.m. at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 2770 W. Central Ave. Interment will follow in Calvary Cemetery

In lieu of flowers, the family is asking for donations in Mary Pat's memory to the Toledo Humane Society or St Jude's Childrens Research Hospital.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 10. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Coyle Funeral and Cremation Services
1770 S. Reynolds Road
Toledo, OH 43614
(419) 865-1295
<https://www.coylefuneralhome.com>

Funeral

JUL 11. 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
2770 W. Central Ave.
Toledo, OH 43606

Tribute Wall

CV

“ 2 files added to the album VIDEO TRIBUTE



COYLE FUNERAL HOME VIDEOS - July 09, 2014 at 02:05 PM

NM

“ *Mary Pat and I met when we attended a SAWA (Society of Animal Welfare Administrators) conference at the same time (1987 maybe?). We've been friends ever since! We served on national committees together, presented on a panel together regarding future trends in animal welfare, shared ideas and woes together...and spoke with each other often, several times a month. We also shared hotel rooms together at the conferences -- not just to save our own agencies money, but to have the most time together to catch up since the last time we spoke, or were together. Mary Pat was my friend and mentor. Like so many others, I miss her terribly. She was smart, compassionate, and faithful; a teacher, leader and advocate. When she was on a roll about an issue or a wrong in the world, you knew it. And then when she shared stories, experiences or just chatted with you, she softened right up. I will never forget the amazing work she did for the homeless and her local church, nor the fun adventures we've had over the past 27 or 28 years. I said to my colleagues that I don't think Mary Pat was done with her work here..yet I understand God has bigger plans and projects for her now. I will be flying out to the funeral to say goodbye to a woman who meant such a great deal to me and my work. My condolences to all her family and friends who are also in shock over her sudden passing. Nancy B. McKenney, MNPL, CAWA*

Nancy McKenney - July 09, 2014 at 12:47 AM



“ *A lovely friend. I miss her greatly.*

Barbara Harris - July 08, 2014 at 07:12 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mary Pat Boatfield.*



July 04, 2014 at 07:07 PM



“ *Mary Pat hired me fresh out of college in 1993/4 to run the Toledo Cat Control program. She was an amazing leader, the best mentor, and a wonderful person through and through. I enjoyed making her laugh, because she had this great cackle once you got her going:) Such a sweet woman who cared deeply about all things living.*

Matt Fry-Detroit, MI

Matt Fry - July 01, 2014 at 02:57 PM



“ *A great loss of a gentle, caring lady with a true passion for animal welfare. She will be missed and her good works will be long remembered.*

Mary Pat often said grace at our Rotary meetings and she always began with, "Good morning, God." Now she is saying it in person.

Jon Johnson - Nashville, TN - July 01, 2014 at 10:07 AM

LE

“ Linda Edmondson lit a candle in memory of Mary Pat Boatfield



Linda Edmondson - June 29, 2014 at 08:20 PM

LE

“ As someone who was a friend to me since grade school, I will miss Pat so much. She taught me so much about animals over the years. Pat was always there when I had a question. I still laugh when I remember as kids, she "babysat" a horse in her home in Toledo. I helped her hide the horse in her basement. The humane society came looking, but did not find that horse. Linda Edmondson, TN

Linda Edmondson - June 29, 2014 at 08:19 PM

AD

“ Ann, I met you when you came to move Mary Pat to Missouri. She and I had planned a visit when she wanted to delay my trip until the end of the month. I had thought of her all this past week and had planned on calling her this evening. This is why I was totally shocked and quite sadden to hear the news from a friend. I know how close she was to you and your husband. And how sorely she will be missed by you. There is a great emptiness left here in Nashville. Her presence still here with the owners of all the furry and feathery critters. I also know her dear church friends missed her when she moved and now miss her visits. I'm not sure how much comfort this is to you but to know how much we really loved her...

Alyce Dobyys, Nashville

Alyce Dobyys - June 29, 2014 at 01:55 PM

DV

“ To the Family of Mary Pat: my deepest sympathy goes out to you during this difficult time. I was very saddened to read of Mary Pat's passing today in the Blade. I served on the Board of the Toledo Area Humane Society for many years, and greatly admired, appreciated and applauded Mary Pat's efforts as director. It was a very difficult job, and Mary Pat conducted herself with the best interests of the organization and the animals at heart! She taught me a lot, and I'm sure the animals and staff in Missouri will greatly miss her as well. I'm sorry that I will be out of town in the middle of July and will miss her service, but will make a donation to the Toledo Humane Society in her honor. Sincerely, Diane Varner

Diane Varner - June 29, 2014 at 09:25 AM