



## Marvin Patrick Risen

April 3, 1944 - August 11, 2022

Marvin Patrick Risen – loving husband, doting father, adoring son, globe-trotting businessman and keen fan of the George Tech Yellow Jackets – died on Aug. 11 in Blacksburg, Va. He was 78.

Marvin, known to friends and colleagues as Pat, was born on April 3, 1944, in Nashville, Tenn., the son of Marvin Jordan Risen and Mary Emily (Rice) Risen. His father, a field agent for the F.B.I., died before he was born, and a few years later his mother married another agent, Francis Norwood, who raised Pat as his son.

Pat graduated from Montgomery Bell Academy in 1962, and studied mechanical engineering at Georgia Tech, where he lettered in gymnastics. After graduating in 1966, he served for two years in the U.S. Army, primarily at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland and the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant in Illinois. After receiving an honorable discharge, he moved to Washington, D.C., where he studied at the American University, receiving his masters degree in business administration in May 1972.

Three months later he married Elizabeth (Chickering) Risen, and the two moved to Corning, N.Y., where Pat began his long career in international business, and where both of his sons were born. His background in engineering and business made him a valuable part of Corning, Inc.'s global

sales team, and his work took him around the world, from Marseilles to Singapore. He and his family even spent 18 months living in Tokyo, an experience that left Pat with a love for all things Japanese.

In 1985 the Risens moved back to Pat's hometown, where he worked for Alcoa Fujikura Ltd. After the fall of the Iron Curtain, he was among the first American businesspeople to enter Eastern Europe, making deals in Poland, Slovenia, Russia and Kazakhstan to upgrade communications systems with AFL's fiber-optic cable. Pat tried to retire in 2002, and he and Elizabeth moved to Blacksburg, Va. But the allure of international business pulled him back, and he closed his career with several years at Synchrony, a local technology company.

Like any good engineer, Pat loved to tinker in his spare time, and made easy friends with mechanics and plumbers – really anyone who would lend an ear. He is survived by his wife and sons, Clay (Joanna) and Michael (Meg); his nephew, Tim Newton; his grandchildren Catherine, Talia, Chickie and Elliot; his brother-in-law Bill Chickering and sister-in-law Sharon Chickering; and numerous cousins and friends. He is predeceased by his parents, his stepfather, and his brother, Daniel. He will be honored with a visitation from 11 to 1 pm on Sunday, August 14, at the McCoy Funeral Home, 150 Country Club Dr., SW, in Blacksburg. In lieu of flowers, his family asks that donations be made to the Alzheimer's Association, [alz.org](http://alz.org).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG **14**. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

McCoy Funeral Home Chapel  
150 Country Club Dr S.W.  
Blacksburg, VA 24060

# Tribute Wall

KB

“ Dear Betsy, so sorry to learn of your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. I just lost my husband this past Saturday, August 20, 2022. May our memories of our loved ones sustain us for the difficult days ahead.

Love and Hugs,  
Kristina Bryan  
Former Employee at ADS

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**Kristina Bryan** - August 22, 2022 at 02:50 PM

JK

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with Betsy, Clay, and Michael during this time.

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**John, Thomas, & Katherine** - August 15, 2022 at 04:41 PM

AK

“ Dear Betsy, I was so sad to learn this morning of Pat's death. Pam and I will be thinking of you during this difficult time. Pat was always a great friend during our days at MBA. I just wish we had been able to remain closer as the years went by. Blessings on you and your family as you mourn. We will pray for peace for you all. Allen and Pam

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**Allen Kennedy** - August 14, 2022 at 07:57 AM

DW

“ Dear Betsy, so grateful to have met you and Pat, Clay and Michael 35 years ago. Pat was an incredible soul. Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers. love, Debbie Wyatt

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**Deborah Wyatt** - August 14, 2022 at 06:23 AM

DH

“ *Betsy, my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*

Deanie Heath - August 13, 2022 at 05:20 PM

JP

“ *Betsy, we are so sorry for your loss. Pat was a gentle soul and we are so happy we got to know him during our time in Blacksbug. Love Jennifer and Rick Perdue*

Jennifer Perdue - August 12, 2022 at 10:44 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Marvin Patrick Risen.*



August 12, 2022 at 06:15 PM