



## Patsy Jean Dillon-Long

May 2, 1955 - October 21, 2021

Patsy Jean Dillon-Long, 66, passed away in Blacksburg, Virginia, on October 21, 2021. She was born in Blacksburg on May 2, 1955, the youngest of three children, and married William Robert “Bob” Long II on July 25, 1981.

Patsy graduated from Virginia Tech in 1977 and Radford University in 1984. In college, she played volleyball and basketball. She also served as a Justice for the Honor Court system, was on the Dean’s Advisory Committee and was a proud member of Zeta Tau Alpha.

Patsy worked for Virginia Tech for many years, including positions with the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine and Continuing and Professional Education, as well as for the Via College of Osteopathic Medicine. However, she was happiest on the tennis court, taking walks on the Huckleberry Trail, or cheering for the Hokies.

Patsy was always willing to lend a helping hand, volunteering with the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program, Blacksburg United Methodist Church, and Zeta Tau Alpha. She was named the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year in 2004 for her nine years as President of the Montgomery County Christmas Store.

Patsy is survived by her husband, Bob; two children, William (and Stephanie) Long of Roanoke, Courtney (and Trevor) Sakry of Blacksburg; three grandsons, Remy, Caleb, and Miles; sister Ann Crawford of Christiansburg;

and niece Christy Dillon of Christiansburg.

A celebration of Patsy's life will be held at Blacksburg United Methodist Church at 111 Church Street on October 28, 2021 at 2:00 pm. Masks will be required and seating may be limited. To attend the service virtually, visit <https://youtu.be/7fvDSZINzZ4>. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Montgomery County Christmas Store.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

OCT **28**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Blacksburg United Methodist Church  
111 Church St SE, Blacksburg, VA 24060

# Tribute Wall

RB

“ Years ago, when my daughter was far from home and needed someone she could turn to, Patsy came forward and gave her a safe place so my daughter could center herself. I will always be grateful to Patsy for providing her a home away from home during a challenging time. How do you adequately thank someone for such generosity and kindness?

*Years ago I heard the following statement which I think applies:*

*"Death is of no concern here for she is with the risen Lord Jesus Christ and the people she has loved and was loved by." Dr. Lloyd Ogilvie, 61st Chaplain, U.S. Senate*

*My thoughts and prayers are with Bob and his family during this difficult time. God bless.*

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**Robert Betz** - October 28, 2021 at 08:53 PM

RD

“ I have so many fond memories of Patsy and her family. Patsy and I began teaching the same year at Blacksburg High School. We had lunch at the same time and we discovered that we both loved to solve the word puzzles in the newspaper, especially Jumble and Wordy Gurdy. So, during lunch, we would open up the newspaper to solve the puzzles. And, of course, with Patsy, it quickly became a competition to see who could solve the puzzle the quickest!

Some years later, I had the pleasure of knowing Bob and having William and Courtney attend Gilbert Linkous Elementary when I was principal there. True to her nature of giving, Patsy spent many hours supporting not only her own children, but all the students at the school.

I am just so sad that she has passed, but I am assured that her wonderful sense of caring and giving will continue through the acts of her children and grandchildren.

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**Ray Van Dyke** - October 28, 2021 at 05:14 PM

AW

“ Ann and Wes purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Patsy Jean Dillon-Long.



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**Ann and Wes** - October 28, 2021 at 08:52 AM

SM

“ I, too, was a ZTA sister of Patsy's. I have nothing but fond memories of her and remember laughing a lot when around her. I am devastated by this loss and my heart and prayers go to her family. RIP, dear Patsy.



Susan Absher McClelland - October 27, 2021 at 09:46 PM

Jane  
Parrish  
Wargo

“ I first met Patsy when she pledged ZTA. I loved her as a very kind and warm hearted individual. We both worked at the Virginia Tech sports camp while in college. Over the years, I always enjoyed going to VT football games and going to her tailgate. I have so many fun and fond memories of her. She will truly be missed. RIP dear Patsy. My sympathies to Bob and family.

Jane Parrish Wargo - October 27, 2021 at 07:33 PM

DB

I knew Patsy at Virginia Tech, as Zeta sisters in the early 70's. We met again years later at a reunion and that smile, that wonderful smile, had not changed a bit. Still the cheerful, kind, and funny girl with a huge heart and sparkling, contagious smile. I'm so sorry and, to her beloved family, I send love. May her memory be a blessing.

Dr Gail Brothers - October 28, 2021 at 02:13 PM

LM

I, too, was blessed to first meet Patsy as a ZTA at Virginia Tech. What a vibrant, loving and infectious personality! A heart of gold...that would be Patsy. Along with her beautiful smile, we would see each other from time to time over the years. But time didn't matter. We were sisters. Although saddened by her passing, I know she is looking over her family & friends to help guide us and live as she did with love, kindness and charity.

Linda Rush Murray - October 28, 2021 at 03:18 PM

RS

“ RVARC staff purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Patsy Jean Dillon-Long.



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**RVARC staff** - October 27, 2021 at 11:45 AM

DB

“ I met my beloved Patsy at the Va Tech All Sports Camp ( she was still in high school). When we discovered we were both passionate Dallas Cowboys fans, we completely connected! 🤔 Then, when she was a freshman at Va Tech, she pledged ZTA & is my Little Sister. Patsy is smart, funny, kind, generous, a talented athlete, a loving wife & a proud mother & grandmother. She will always be alive in my heart. ❤️

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**Darice Bowles** - October 26, 2021 at 08:29 PM

SB

“ I have many special memories of Patsy, probably none more fun than the crazy skits we used to come up with to entice children to come to BUMC Vacation Bible School! That was my introduction to the stage lol! We prided ourselves on increasing enrollment every year. Just a little competitive there. I also remember leaving town when massive snow storms and this power outages hit Blacksburg. We'd escape with the kids and have so much fun. Sending love and prayers to Bob, William, and Courtney.

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**Sheila Black** - October 26, 2021 at 05:31 PM

LF

“ *Larkin Fields lit a candle in memory of Patsy Jean Dillon-Long*



Larkin Fields - October 26, 2021 at 10:00 AM



“ *What a gem! And a great trumpet player you know! May her life leave many happy memories! Karen (Brown) DeBord*

Karen DeBord - October 26, 2021 at 07:43 AM

PW

“ *Patsy was an energetic fun sorority sister. She opened her home to my family for our 25th zeta reunion. Took great care of us Zetas always! Hugs for the family for this loss. She will be sorely missed. Zeta love 💕 Patsy. You're with the angels now. Peggy Gilmer Woods*

Peggy Giler Woods - October 25, 2021 at 06:55 PM

JC

“ *When Patsy found out that we took our dog, Mugs, to a kennel when we travelled, she would have none of that. She kept Mugs for us many, many times. We often found Mugs lying on the Long's front lawn even when we were home. As many have already said, Patsy was ready to help whenever and wherever she could. Jim and Lois Craig*

Jim and Lois Craig - October 25, 2021 at 04:29 PM

SH

*So sweet!*

Sherry and David Hill - October 25, 2021 at 06:06 PM

SD

“ I will always remember Patsy for her big heart and kindness. She would do absolutely anything for anyone. She was one in a million. We were very privileged to know her. All of the family is in our thoughts and prayers.

*Susan & Dennis Duncan*

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**Susan & Dennis** - October 25, 2021 at 03:24 PM

BI

“ Patsy and I were instant best friends when we met in Mrs Brown's fifth grade class. I have so many great memories of the fun we had and the (mild) trouble we could get ourselves into ! We grew up as VA Tech townies and tomboys with such a wonderful group of friends. Patsy was one of the most unfailingly nice, selfless people I ever met. She was always involved in the community and helping others. Hers was a life well lived, and she was and is loved by so many. I will miss her always.

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**Brenda Ingles** - October 25, 2021 at 02:20 PM

SS

*I will miss her deeply, as Brenda said above, she was part of a great group of friends during high school. We rode to school together every day, had camp outs in our back yard, played basketball together and most memorable was she, Brenda and I were part of a trumpet trio at a competition and played a song called the Tree Musketeers. We were dressed alike and got a superior grade!*

*Patsy was fun loving , kind to everyone and will leave a big hole in this world! Love you Patsy!*

*Prayers for comfort during this time for the family.*

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**Sherry Sonnessa** - October 26, 2021 at 08:35 AM

JD

*Patsy added such fun and love to ZTA when she joined our chapter! And how lucky we all were to continue our friendship after college and share alumnae years with her, despite how short they were. Patsy epitomized "the greatest of these is LOVE..." Love to Bob, Courtney and William. May your memories give you comfort.*

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**Jeanne Centracchio DaDamio** - October 28, 2021 at 03:01 PM