



## Patricia Helen Harding

March 28, 1945 - December 26, 2022

Patricia Helen (Mata) Harding of Saint Augustine, FL, completed her Earthly journey Dec 26, 2022. She was born March 28, 1945 at St. Joseph's Hospital, in Parkersburg, WV to Butch and Delores Tyler. She was adopted as an infant by Raymond and Mary Mata, and attended DeSales Heights, McKinley, VanDevender, and Parkersburg High School before transferring to Williamstown HS and graduating with the class of 1963. While attending school, Patty was a member of the band and symphony having played trombone and violin.

After graduation, Patty enlisted in the United States Army where she served her country during the Vietnam War as an x-ray technician. She was stationed at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas, where she met an instructor of dental sciences named Ray. Ray and Patty were married on June 5th, 1964. Upon the end of their enlistments, Ray and Patty lived in Jacksonville, FL moved to Parkersburg in early 1966, and settled in Vienna in 1978. Patty worked as a stay at home child care provider for many years. Caring for children and sharing Jesus with them was Patty's calling, and she cherished them all.

Patty and her family attended First United Methodist Church, Parkersburg, during their time in WV. She was active in the Susannah ladies ministry circle and was a member of the Sanctuary Choir. Patty loved all religious music, but had a special place in her heart for Southern Gospel and the group, Greater Vision. Upon moving to FL, Patty and Ray joined Grace UMC in St. Augustine.

Patty leaves behind her husband of 58 years, Raymond Harding of St Augustine, FL, daughter Diane (Greg) Burd of Patterson, GA, daughter Jan Rapp of St Augustine, FL, grandson David (Melissa) Wright of St Augustine, granddaughter Morgan (Logan Raines) Wright of Williamstown, WV, and great-grandson Coltyn Wright of St Augustine, FL. Patty's most precious moments were with her family and she considered them her greatest accomplishment. In addition to her immediate family, Patty leaves behind extended family members, including life-long friends: Kay Martin and Patty Stewart.

Patty was preceded in death by both her biological and adoptive parents, her father and mother-in-law Harold and Bertha Harding, brother Reverend Doctor Charles Bowyer, sister Nancy Erickson, son-in-law Jim Rapp, and baby grandson Mason Wright.

The family would like to thank Patty's doctors and nurses, Ponce Rehabilitation Facility, and the Bailey Center/Hospice facility at Flagler Hospital. Also, many thanks to everyone at St. Johns Family Funeral Home for their love and compassion during this time.

A memorial gathering will be held at St. Johns FFH, St. Augustine, FL, Wednesday, January 4th at 11am, with the family receiving visitors 1 hr prior. A private, graveside service will be held for the family following the service. Patty will be interred with full military honors at the Jacksonville National Military Cemetery. Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.stjohnsfamilyfuneralhome.com](http://www.stjohnsfamilyfuneralhome.com)

For those who are unable to attend the service, it will be live-streamed at <http://iframe.dacast.com/live/2a7a09ae1c0559a83ef537e05e6a14a6/2aae7d5f-98fd-a9e6-32a7-b774547cf42c>

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in Patty's memory to St Jude Children's Research Hospital at [www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 4. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

ST JOHNS FAMILY FUNERAL HOME  
385 State Rd 207  
St. Augustine, FL 32084

## Memorial Service

JAN 4. 11:00 AM (ET)

ST JOHNS FAMILY FUNERAL HOME  
385 State Rd 207  
St. Augustine, FL 32084

# Tribute Wall



“ *St. Johns Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Patricia Helen Harding*



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**St. Johns Family Funeral Home** - January 03, 2023 at 01:51 PM

JM

*RIP Patricia  
The Ponce misses you*

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**Jeanie McDonough** - January 04, 2023 at 11:59 PM

JB

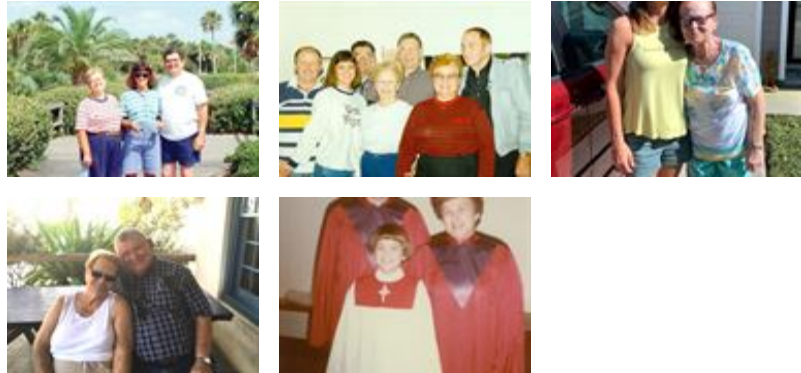
*What a beautiful tribute to a wonderful person. Sending you our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Patty was loved by so many and was blessed with a wonderful, caring family! We'll always remember those Ruby Tuesday lunches!*

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**Janet Blessing** - January 06, 2023 at 11:03 AM



“ 18 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



**St. Johns Family Funeral Home** - January 03, 2023 at 01:49 PM



“ *Prayers from First United Methodist Church in Parkersburg, West Virginia*

**Mike and Beverly Brannock** - January 02, 2023 at 05:11 PM



*From Mike and Beverly Brannock*

**Mike and Beverly Brannock** - January 02, 2023 at 05:14 PM



*Hey, Mike and Bev. Thank you so much for reaching out and for loving Mom. Our love to FUMC.*

**Jan Rapp** - January 02, 2023 at 09:25 PM

GS

“ My memory is accompanying your mom on the piano while she played the violin. I was very nervous. This was in Williamstown at a school/choir event.

She lived on Henderson Ave. I lived one block away on Caroline Ave. She remained a good friend as “Peanut Patty” when we started emailing as members of WHS class of 1963. Glenda Binegar Stanley

Glenda Stanley - January 02, 2023 at 05:01 PM

JR

I feel acquainted with you even though we've never met simply because of how fondly Mom always spoke of you. Mom loved her time at Williamstown and would want the class of '63 to know how much she loved them.

Jan Rapp - January 02, 2023 at 09:57 PM



“ 106 files added to the album LifeTributes



St. Johns Family Funeral Home - January 02, 2023 at 02:08 PM

SB

“ Even though I was just a server at a restaurant she frequented, she always made me feel like I was another member of her family, and she treated my son like a grandkid whenever he was at work with me. She had the biggest heart that somehow just kept growing to love more and more people and the most infectious smile I’ve ever seen.

Sunnie Boggs - January 01, 2023 at 05:34 PM

JR

No one was ever “just a person” to Mom. She loved deeply and had room in her heart for everyone. You and Dakota were special to us all. Thank you for loving our mom.

Jan Rapp - January 01, 2023 at 09:21 PM

TR

“ I have many memories of Patty and my Mom being young Moms together on 42nd Street in Parkersburg WV. We lived next door to each other until 5th Grade. My Mom and Patty shared meals, holidays and birthdays. I remember them sitting together in our kiddie pool sunbathing while we played together as kids. ❤️

Tamma Terrell Ruth - January 01, 2023 at 02:53 PM

KM

Patty and I met in the early 1970’s when our husbands worked together. We shared common interests in young children, shopping, Girl Scouts, softball and cookouts and had a lot of fun. She will truly be missed as she loved her family very much.

Kay Martin

Kay Martin - January 02, 2023 at 02:44 PM

JR

Thank you so much for leaving a message for Mom. We are thankful for the times we’ve had together and we love you all.

Jan Rapp - January 03, 2023 at 01:06 PM



“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

St. Johns Family Funeral Home - January 01, 2023 at 01:48 PM

MF

“ *Patty and her family quickly became friends with me during her hospital stay in 2009 in St Augustine during a vacation. Patty a very hard, strong headed woman had just met the nurse of like mind. Lol I was recently born again and they didn't know this but they influenced my growth in Jesus and righteousness. I will never ever forget you Patty. Love you My Sister in Christ, Michelle Fortier*

Michelle Fortier - December 30, 2022 at 07:34 AM

JR

*Thank you for your prayers, Michelle*

Jan Rapp - December 30, 2022 at 04:01 PM

PG

“ *So sorry for your loss, she was such a sweet person, prayers for Ray and rest of family at this time too. Love Phyllis Greathouse*

phyllis greathouse - December 29, 2022 at 11:06 PM

JR

*Mom treasured your friendship, Phyl. We truly appreciate your love and prayers during this time*

Jan Rapp - December 30, 2022 at 04:00 PM

CW

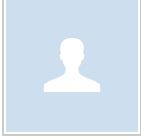
“ *We are so sorry for your family's loss. We cherish the time we had with Patty and pray for Ray and family as they grieve. Pastors Carolyn and David Williamson, Grace UMC*

carolyn Williamson - December 29, 2022 at 09:47 PM

JR

*Thank you, pastors, for your love and support.*

**Jan Rapp** - December 30, 2022 at 04:01 PM



“ *Treasured Memory - 8" x 7" Frame (Holds 4x6 Photo) was purchased for the family of Patricia Helen Harding.*



December 29, 2022 at 05:43 PM