



Patrick William deBernard

December 2, 1946 - March 25, 2021

With his family by his side, Patrick William "Pat" deBernard, 74, passed away peacefully on Thursday, March 25, 2021 at his Rustburg home following a short illness.

Pat was the loving husband of Carolyn Marshall deBernard for 53 years.

He was born December 2, 1946 in Campbell County, Virginia the only son of the late Jean William deBernard and Maebelle Krantz deBernard.

After graduating from Altavista High School, Pat proudly served in the US Army including combat duty during the Vietnam War.

Pat was the "semi-retired" owner of Yeatts Transfer Company and 3D Delivery in Altavista. Anyone who knew Pat would roll their eyes at his claim of being "semi-retired". His work ethic was legendary.

If you were never fed by Pat, you likely never met him...because he fed everybody! - family, countless friends, neighbors, employees, business partners, townsfolk, tailgaters, students, teachers, coaches, first responders, church congregations, veterans and revelers and celebrants for all occasions. He was his happiest when perched upon his famed mobile kitchen, apron around his waist with the cookers fired up and loaded with his renowned

grilled meats and delectable side dishes. No one ever went hungry around Pat.

Pat lived a life of serving and helping others. He was particularly devoted to his adopted hometown of Altavista. He chaired the Uncle Billy's Day Festival committee for more than a decade. His tireless efforts and meticulous attention to detail always ensured an overwhelmingly successful event that brought significant recognition and much needed economic vitality to the town. For his longtime service, Pat was named the Altavista Citizen of the year in 2004. Always humble by nature, Pat was never one to seek attention for himself. He quietly helped community organizations raise funds and was always quick to extend a helping hand to anyone who needed a job, a meal, winter coat or just an encouraging word.

He is perhaps most well-known across the region for his spectacular summer fireworks show that annually lit up the Yellow Branch skies to celebrate our nation's independence. An accomplished professional pyrotechnic, Pat proudly hosted arguably America's largest backyard fireworks extravaganza. It was indeed something to witness. Each year the show was bigger and more incredible. Tens of thousands of spectators were always awestruck by his amazing and astonishing display.

Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by two sisters, Theresa Reynolds and Lebrianne Guthrie.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two sons, Kevin deBernard (Kelly) of Altavista and Kris deBernard (Andrea) of Springfield; one sister, Lucy Marshall of Rustburg; and three grandchildren, Keegan, Kiernan, and Ally. He will also be sadly missed by his many nieces and nephews, innumerable friends, his Colonial breakfast buddies, co-workers, business associates, his beloved Hokie Tailgater family and so many more people he touched during in his

lifetime.

A memorial service and Celebration of Life will be conducted at 2:00PM on Saturday April 3, 2021 at the Altavista Fire Company located at 1280 Main Street.

The family will receive friends immediately following the service at the Altavista Fire Company and other times at the residence.

For those wishing to make memorial gifts, the family suggests to please consider the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society at donate.lls.org.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

APR 3. 2:00 PM (ET)

Altavista Fire Company
1280 Main Street
Altavista, VA 24517

Tribute Wall



“ Finch & Finch, Inc. Funeral & Cremation Service created a Tribute Video in memory of Patrick William deBernard



Finch & Finch, Inc. Funeral & Cremation Service - March 29, 2021 at 03:41 PM

CM

*I, whether it be at school or anywhere else, if Pat seen me , he would always say, hi! Cindy. I will certainly, miss Pat at Sam's Club, where I've been employed for almost 17 yrs. He always made my day, seeing him as a person, I had known throughout my entire life, and Always seeing his smile and kind hi! Cindy each and every time. It made my day, a HAPPIER DAY. He was nice to everyone in school. It didn't matter if you were poor or rich. I remember him telling me, it doesn't matter where you come from, if you want to make something of yourself, nothing will stop you. You can see nothing stopped him. What A Great Success. I Hope Everyone In Pat's Family heals Well From His Loss
-Cynthia Barbee Marsh*

Cynthia Barbee Marsh - April 04, 2021 at 02:58 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Memorial Service



Finch & Finch, Inc. Funeral & Cremation Service - April 05, 2021 at 04:17 PM

SO

“ Carolyn,
We send you and your family our sincerest condolences for the loss of your sweet, generous husband, Pat. He will be sorely missed by many, but especially the entire Campbell County community.
With our best wishes for you all,
WB and Susan Owen

Susan W. Owen - April 05, 2021 at 01:23 PM

CM

“ Cynthia Barbee Marsh lit a candle in memory of Patrick William deBernard



Cynthia Barbee Marsh - April 04, 2021 at 02:33 PM



“ With Distinction was purchased for the family of Patrick William deBernard.



April 02, 2021 at 11:46 AM



“ Southern Magnolia Tree was purchased for the family of Patrick William deBernard.



April 02, 2021 at 11:27 AM

CA

“ *My Thoughts and Prayers are with the family,*



CarolRowland - April 01, 2021 at 09:38 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Patrick William deBernard.*



March 31, 2021 at 07:18 PM

WR

“ *W K Heavy Haul, Inc & The Colonial Restaurant purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Patrick William deBernard.*



W K Heavy Haul, Inc & The Colonial Restaurant - March 31, 2021 at 01:17 PM

BS

“ Pat appeared on the scene in our lives while we lived in Hanahan, SC, during the aftermath of Hurricane Hugo in 1989. We received a call from my (Carol's) dad who told us that there was a kind gentleman in Altavista, VA, who wanted to drive a tractor-trailer load of food, clothing, and furniture to some of those who had lost their homes. Bob, my husband, immediately rounded up some church friends at Yeamans Park Presbyterian Church, in Hanahan, who had strong bodies and wills to meet Pat and to unload and distribute the items. Little did we know that there would be eight or nine additional loads over the next few weeks - enough goods for us to share with our friends living on Johns Island who had lost even more. Even though he must have been exhausted driving so far, so frequently, he would always arrive with a smile on his face. At the time of the last load, he invited me (Carol) to ride with him in the cab of the truck He kept me laughing the entire time, a precious gift to me after the trauma of the hurricane.

Pat did not forget us after Hugo. We remained recipients of his hospitality over the years as he invited us to his famous tailgating at VT and Clemson football games. He was quite the chef. We will forever remain appreciative of his friendship and love of others.

Bob and Carol (Guthrie) Stout

Bob and Carol Stout - March 30, 2021 at 07:36 PM

JM

“ John And Lori McGill sent a virtual gift in memory of Patrick William deBernard



John and Lori McGill - March 30, 2021 at 07:00 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Patrick William deBernard.*



March 30, 2021 at 10:37 AM



“ *My prayers and condolences to the family. I went to school with Pat and always enjoyed him.*

Mike Owens - March 29, 2021 at 04:35 PM



“ *117 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Finch & Finch, Inc. Funeral & Cremation Service - March 29, 2021 at 12:57 PM



“ *Thiel and Thiel purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Patrick William deBernard.*



Thiel and Thiel - March 29, 2021 at 12:31 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Patrick William deBernard.*



March 29, 2021 at 12:28 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Patrick William deBernard.*



March 29, 2021 at 11:29 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Patrick William deBernard.*



March 29, 2021 at 10:57 AM



“ *Pat was a great friend and co-worker for many years. We worked together at Yeatts Transfer and shot fireworks shows together. He will always be remembered for his sense of humor, friendliness, and devotion to his family and community. Thoughts and prayers to his family.*

John and Shari Dudley - March 29, 2021 at 09:35 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Patrick William deBernard.*



March 29, 2021 at 08:52 AM



“ *Paul And Jean VanKerckhove lit a candle in memory of Patrick William deBernard*



Paul and Jean VanKerckhove - March 28, 2021 at 05:12 PM



“ *Bob and Carol Stout purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Patrick William deBernard.*



Bob and Carol Stout - March 28, 2021 at 03:46 PM



“ *Nobody got more out of life than Pat. Rest in peace. Sandra and Roger*

Roger Newman - March 28, 2021 at 01:06 PM

CC

“ *Cindy W Creasy lit a candle in memory of
Patrick William deBernard*



Cindy W Creasy - March 28, 2021 at 08:12 AM

SK

“ *Susan Krantz lit a candle in memory of
Patrick William deBernard*



Susan Krantz - March 28, 2021 at 07:42 AM

KW

“ *Kathy And Ray Walker lit a candle in memory
of Patrick William deBernard*



Kathy and Ray Walker - March 28, 2021 at 07:12 AM

TS

“ *One of the Finest men I have ever known , Rest In Peace my Friend
....you will be missed ...*

Titus Burgess Sr. - March 28, 2021 at 07:01 AM

GW

“ Sorry for your loss prayers



Gwenda Willard - March 27, 2021 at 11:14 PM

JL

“ Condolences to the family and friends.
Sending prayers



Jane Lankford - March 27, 2021 at 10:47 PM

MT

“ Mike, Kim, & Hannah Towler lit a candle in
memory of Patrick William deBernard



Mike, Kim, & Hannah Towler - March 27, 2021 at 10:29 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the
family of Patrick William deBernard.



March 27, 2021 at 10:15 PM

DD

“ Dear deBernard Family. I am sorry to hear about the passing of Pat. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you during your loss. Pat, May You Rest In Peace.

Sincerely,
Dennis DeLappe

Dennis DeLappe - March 27, 2021 at 10:08 PM

JR

“ John and I share your loss. Pat has been special since we met at VA Tech when Kris and Collin were students. Please know the entire family continues to be in our prayers.

John &Tish Richman - March 27, 2021 at 09:15 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Patrick William deBernard.



March 27, 2021 at 09:13 PM

KW

“ Ken And Joan Woodson sent a virtual gift in memory of Patrick William deBernard



Ken and Joan Woodson - March 27, 2021 at 07:03 PM

SD

“ *Lucy and family, So sorry about the loss of you brother. He will be missed by all. Our prayers are with you all during this difficult time.*



Steve and Jean Dalton - March 27, 2021 at 06:30 PM

CM

“ *I did not know Mr. Debernard personally but I had heard lots of good things about him. His FireWorks display were the best in the State of Virginia in my heart. Thank you for all you done. My thoughts and prayers are with his Family. My Deepest Sympathy. You have his Memories in your heart never forget them. God Bless you All*
Cathy Maddox
Evington Virginia



Cathy Maddox - March 27, 2021 at 05:54 PM

RM

“ *I hardly knew Pat on a personal level, but I knew Pat. He ran the show. My sister, Nora Hart, worked for him for many years before her unfortunate illness. I heard Pat's name many many times. He was always so good to her and Wayne and I truly cherish that. He was helpful to us and let us park at the company when we came to visit Nora in Autumn Care. We are so sorry for the loss felt by the family and the company and the community.*

Rachel Mix - March 27, 2021 at 04:47 PM

PP

“ *My thoughts and prayers go out to each member of the family, friends, etc. Pat will certainly be missed by many.*



Pat Puckette - March 27, 2021 at 04:30 PM

GW

“ *Sorry for your loss. Prayers*



Gwenda Willard - March 27, 2021 at 03:32 PM

JW

“ *So sorry for your loss. Some of my favorite memories as a Freshman at Virginia Tech were to walk out my dorm on my way to the stadium to work for the Radio team. My first stop was always at the Merryman's tailgate, and Pat was always trying to fill me up before I had to go work the game. Sometimes I think he was trading me food for inside information on the football team!!! He will be greatly missed!!!*

Joel West - March 27, 2021 at 03:21 PM

CH

“ *Connie Payne Hall sent a virtual gift in memory of Patrick William deBernard*



Connie Payne Hall - March 27, 2021 at 02:37 PM

JW

“ Our sincere condolences to Carolyn and her family. Your hearts may be broken but your memories of a fantastic man will always be treasured.

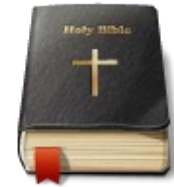
Ruth Rice
Janet Wedt



Janet West - March 27, 2021 at 02:24 PM

DM

“ Dorothy Mitchell sent a virtual gift in memory of Patrick William deBernard



Dorothy Mitchell - March 27, 2021 at 02:08 PM

DD

the family has my prayers and all the blessings i have . God bless all

Dorothy Mitchell Dot[- March 27, 2021 at 02:12 PM

JM

“ Jimmy Marr lit a candle in memory of Patrick William deBernard



Jimmy marr - March 27, 2021 at 12:44 PM

LC

“ So sorry for your loss. I've known Pat just about all my life. He was such a nice man and will be missed by many. Prayers for the family



Lynn Crouch - March 27, 2021 at 12:38 PM

JA

“ June & Bobby Arthur lit a candle in memory of Patrick William deBernard



June & Bobby Arthur - March 27, 2021 at 12:30 PM

CS

“ Cindy Stewart lit a candle in memory of Patrick William deBernard



Cindy Stewart - March 27, 2021 at 12:26 PM

LR

“ Larry Roach And Nadine Roach lit a candle in memory of Patrick William deBernard



Larry Roach and Nadine Roach - March 27, 2021 at 12:20 PM