



James Patrick "Pat" Tlapek

December 19, 1920 - June 24, 2016

James Patrick (Pat) Tlapek, of Cape Girardeau, MO, died June 24, 2016, at the age of 95, at Chateau Girardeau Health Center. He was born December 19, 1920 in St. Mary, MO, the youngest of seven children born to John Joseph and Annie Jokerst Tlapek; and was grandson to John and Rose Bogy Tlapek and Charles and Josephine Huttig Jokerst.

Pat married his beloved and devoted wife, Anne Madeleine Blanton, on June 23, 1956 at St. Frances Xavier Catholic Church in Sikeston, MO, and together they raised six children.

Pat attended grade school in St. Mary, MO and was a graduate of St. Louis University High School in St. Louis, MO. While attending Loyola University in New Orleans he enrolled in the Civilian Pilot Training Program and earned his private pilot's license. He received a degree in Meteorology from University of Chicago.

During World War II, he served as a Captain in the 8th Army Air Corp, in the 18th Weather Squadron. He was stationed in Stamford and Duxford, England from 1942-1945 and was honorably discharged in November 1945.

In 1948 Pat purchased Auto Tire and Parts, a company with one store located in Cape Girardeau. Pat served as President of Auto Tire and Parts for many

years, and later on the company's Board of Directors, where he remained involved with the business, which has now grown to 49 stores in four states with over 300 employees. He held leadership positions in various organizations within the automotive parts industry, among them serving on the Board of Directors and as President of the Mo-Kan Automotive Wholesalers Association; and he was the recipient of the association's Man of the Year Award in 1979. He also served on the board of directors of ASIA (Automotive Service Industry Association)

Pat was a member of the SEMO Boy Scout Council and served many years on its Finance Committee. In recognition of his devotion to scouting, he received, in 1983, the Silver Beaver, which is the highest volunteer honor that a local council of the Boy Scouts of America can award.

Pat was a member of the Downtown Rotary Club where he served as director and president in 1986, and he was a Paul Harris Fellow.

He served on several Boards of Directors, including those of First Federal Savings and Loan of Southeast of MO, The Cape Girardeau Chamber of Commerce, Friends of St. Frances Medical Center, and The Foundation, where he served on the Finance Committee.

Pat was appointed to the SEMO State University Board of Regents by Gov. John Ashcroft, and served as the Board's President during his term. He was also a member of the SEMO State University Foundation and Copper Dome Society. He will be remembered for his many charitable contributions, in particular his donation to SEMO of the Tlappek General Services Building.

Pat was a member of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, where he participated in various activities, among them Renew Seminar, Dinner for Eight and the Men's Association. He was a 3rd degree member of St.

Vincent's Council No. IIII of the Knights of Columbus.

Pat was an avid and accomplished golfer and a member of the Cape Girardeau Country Club, where he was the club champion 6 times. He will be remembered for his many holes in one and for his consistently smooth, strong swing.

Survivors include his wife, Anne Blanton Tlapek, 6 children: Mary (Larry) Menefee of Plano, TX; John (Alicia) Tlapek of Denver, CO; David (Catherine) Tlapek of Aliso Viejo, CA; Steve (Cheryl) Tlapek of Webster Groves, MO; Bob (Sarah) Tlapek of Cape Girardeau, MO and Maureen (Pierre) Koshakji of Dallas, TX. Grandchildren include Annie Menefee of Plano, TX; Emily Tlapek, Kathryn Tlapek and Thomas Tlapek of Webster Groves, MO; Alexander Koshakji, John Patrick Koshakji, James Koshakji, Grant Koshakji and Andrew Koshakji of Dallas, TX; James Patrick (Paddy) of Denver, CO; Elizabeth (Libby) Tlapek of Cape Girardeau, MO. He is also survived by Elois Tlapek , John and Claire Blanton, Joe and Nancy Blanton, Lewis and Barbara Blanton, Harry and Jane Blanton and many cherished nieces and nephews.

Preceding Pat in death were his parents, four brothers: Charles Tlapek, Joseph Tlapek, Frances Paul (Jim) Tlapek, and Tom Tlapek and two sisters: Josephine Warrington and Rose Perkinson.

The family is grateful to the staff at the Chateau Girardeau Health Center and to the loving care provided by Jenifer Edmundson and many others too numerous to mention.

Visitation will be from 4:00-6:30pm Sunday, June 26th with parish prayers at 6:00pm at Ford and Sons Mount Auburn Funeral Home in Cape Girardeau. The funeral will be at 10:00am Monday, June 27th at St. Vincent De Paul

Catholic Church of Cape Girardeau.

Burial with full military rites will follow at St. Mary Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests those memorials be given to St. Vincent De Paul Catholic Church or a charity of your choice.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary Cemetery

1101 Perry Avenue
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 26. 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM (CT)

Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Funeral Home
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
(573) 334-1313
info@fordandsonsfuneralhome.com
<https://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com/>

Parish Prayers

JUN 26. 6:00 PM (CT)

Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Funeral Home
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Tribute Wall

R(

“ I sure miss Uncle Pat and you Aunt Anne, and all of the Tlapeks. When I remember Uncle Pat, he always had a huge smile on his face and a giggle, something his children inherited indeed. Rest in Peace.

Your niece and cousin Roby

Rosemary Kavanagh (Roby) - November 01, 2021 at 04:29 PM

PP

“ Here's to Uncle Pat (my beloved godfather), who graced our lives in so many ways. We cherish our memories of him. With love, Peggy Perkinson and David Rockemann

Peggy Perkinson - June 30, 2016 at 08:15 PM

NE

“ We will always be grateful for Pat's friendship and support of our family business many years ago. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this difficult time.

Helen Ueleke and Family

Norma Ueleke Engelhardt - June 29, 2016 at 02:11 PM

LF

“ Larry & Susan Ruzicka Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of James Patrick "Pat" Tlapek.



Larry & Susan Ruzicka Family - June 27, 2016 at 01:39 AM

JF

“ Our thoughts are with your family during your time of loss. May you find comfort knowing how great a person Mr Pat was and how many lives he touched.

Jimmy Reno & family - June 26, 2016 at 08:49 PM

YC

“ Your friends from Genuine Parts Company purchased the Bountiful Rose Basket for the family of James Patrick "Pat" Tlapek.



Your friends from Genuine Parts Company - June 26, 2016 at 02:08 PM

RH

“ My deepest sympathy to the Tlapek family. If there is anything I can do to help in your time of need, please let me know. Rob Hale 573-225-4197

Robert Hale - June 26, 2016 at 01:22 PM

PB

“ Paul & Helen Simpson Family , Bob & Ton & Barbara purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of James Patrick "Pat" Tlapek.



Paul & Helen Simpson Family , Bob & Ton & Barbara - June 26, 2016 at 12:44 PM

MC

“ *My prayers and deepest sympathies for your family. What a wonderful man!*

Melanie Coy - June 26, 2016 at 05:44 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Patrick "Pat" Tlapek.*



June 25, 2016 at 10:22 PM