

Dr. Patricia Marie Campbell



Dr. Patricia Marie Campbell, 71, of Oak Hills was called to Heaven (we hope) peacefully on Nov. 21 after a brief illness.

Pat was born in Martinez, CA on Feb. 25, 1944. She moved to Concord a few years later with her parents Charles and Sophia Campbell, and her newborn sister, Kaye. She grew up in Concord, where she was an active member of the Mt. Diablo High School band, dutifully playing her trombone, and being an active member of the debate team. She graduated in 1961, and began her career in education as a freshman at Fresno State, Go Bulldogs! Upon telling her father that she decided to major in science, Charles called the school and insisted that Pat

be allowed to take humanities classes (in addition to science classes) that would allow her to earn a Bachelor of Arts in science as opposed to a Bachelor of Science, because she "...needs to have some culture and be well-rounded, not just be one of those crazy scientists!" Therefore, Pat was unique in that she had a B.A. in science, as opposed to a B.S. Upon graduating from Fresno State in 1966, Pat worked that summer as lifeguard at Holbrook Heights swimming pool in Concord, where she even had to kick her own sister out of the pool one day for not following directions. Because of a family move to Oklahoma in 1967, she finished her teaching credentials at Oklahoma State University, and then returned to California to begin her teaching career.

Though a Northern California native, Pat began her love affair with Southern California by taking her first job in 1968 at Sequoia Junior High School in Fontana. During her early years as a teacher, Pat was known as the staff practical joker, and other staff members might find their hats in the freezer, or skeletons sitting in their chairs when they arrived in the morning to teach. Pat also taught at Fontana Junior High School and Southridge Middle School. Throughout her teaching career, Pat taught science, P.E., math, and earned a Master's degree at UCLA, while also teaching band, coaching basketball, and advising for the cheerleading squad and drill team. She later moved on and eventually finished her career at Fontana High School, where "Miss Campbell" was loved and adored by her students, as evidenced by the words on the back of a student's picture telling her "Thank you for believing in me when I didn't believe in myself." She was very well respected by her colleagues, and often mentored new teachers and student teachers. She achieved one of her proudest accomplishments as an educator, earning her Ph.D in Physiology from UCLA in 2002. She retired in 2004 from the Fontana School District after 36 years.

Pat's passions were many (especially arguing with Republicans), but perhaps nearest and dearest to her generous heart, she held her beloved Chihuahuas and her UCLA Bruins. With the help of her lifelong best friend, Dale, she created "Hotshot Chihuahuas," where she helped breed, kennel, care for and show champion and multiple award-winning dogs. Not to mention providing her niece and nephews years of joy with "puppy surprises." She made lasting, lifelong friendships with several members of the Southern California Chihuahua Club, helped organize many local events and dog shows, was past president, served on the Board of Directors, and was recently elected to lifetime membership. Pat loved her dogs.

Perhaps UCLA's greatest fan, Pat had season tickets to basketball and football for nearly 40 years. She often told stories of watching Lew Alcindor (Kareem Abdul Jabbar) on the basketball court during open practices in the late 1960s, and was regularly one of the first few vehicles in line to get a spot for those wonderful UCLA football tailgaters.

In her prime, she would make the drive from Fontana to Westwood sometimes three times per week to watch games. In true Bruin form, she despised "S.C.," and it only seemed fitting that on the day of her death, UCLA football won, and the Trojans lost. She would have been elated! Pat instilled a love of sports and athletics in her three nephews, and her sister Kaye is very grateful for the opportunities Pat provided for them, such as taking them to the 1984 L.A. Olympics, Rose Bowl games, and several UCLA games. Kaye has often said, "Pat took my kids to the Olympics ... I've never been to the Olympics. That's the kind of person she was."

Pat was an unwavering, rock solid supporter to friends and family in times of need. Her home was always open, and she took care of those close to her. She loved her best friend Dale, her only sister Kaye, her niece and nephews, and maintained a close relationship with them all. She was the only Auntie her nephews and niece had, and she embraced that role as a mentor, care giver, confidant, and always had sage advice for the tough times. She was a special and sincere Auntie, whose sly sense of humor was always played with perfect timing, often lightening up a serious situation.

Pat is survived by her sister Kaye of Fremont, NE; dear friend and roommate Dale Van Camp of Oak Hills; niece Amanda Limbach (Eric) of Fremont, NE; nephews Patrick Tuttle (Kaylynn) of Fremont, NE, Steven Tuttle (Jeannine) of Lincoln, NE, and Matthew Tuttle (Angela) of Olympia, WA; and several grand nieces and nephews. Pat is also survived by a tremendous group of friends around Southern California. Pat was preceded in death by her parents Charles and Sophia Campbell. In lieu of flowers, Pat would appreciate it if you would not vote Republican ;-).