

Patricia McNamara Fay

February 11, 1944 – November 11, 2025

The world became a little dimmer on Tuesday, November 11, 2025, when Patricia McNamara Fay peacefully passed away in Gilbert, Arizona, surrounded by family, friends, and loved ones.

Pat was born in Hollywood, California, on February 11, 1944, to her parents, Evelyn and Edward McNamara. She spent her younger years in Holbrook, Arizona, and later in Flagstaff, Arizona. She pursued her bachelor's degree in elementary education at Arizona State Teachers College (later renamed Northern Arizona University (NAU)), where she met her beloved husband of 57 years, Terry Fay. They graduated in May of 1966, married that summer, and began teaching in Corona, California.



In 1967, Pat and Terry moved to Casa Grande, Arizona and built a beautiful life together – a life filled with an ever-growing circle of family and friends. Pat taught second grade for 26 years – beginning at Evergreen Elementary School and finishing up at Saguaro Elementary School before retiring in 2002. Never one to sit on her laurels, upon retiring, Pat returned to her love of supporting kids and literacy by becoming the Reading Specialist/Librarian at Villa Oasis High School for 14 years. She was a longtime member of the Casa Grande Alpha Delta Kappa (ΑΔΚ) organization and the Friends of the Casa Grande Library organization – she also served on numerous boards and organizations.

Pat was known to run a tight ship and for using her infamous “stink eye” to let you know when you had dropped the ball. She passed on her profound love of books, reading, and literacy to those she loved and taught. Pat made sure to pass on the important things in life – how to make her famous frosted sugar cookies, how you could not celebrate the 4th of July without homemade ice cream, and how trips to Disneyland were a mandatory part of growing up. She also imbued her strong belief that one should always put on one's lipstick before leaving the house to prepare for anything life chose to throw your way.

Pat demonstrated daily what it meant to be a decent human being and friend – and let those she was close to know how much they were loved and appreciated every day. She treated others with kindness, stood up for what she believed in, gave back to her community by supporting causes that were near and dear to her heart, and set an example for others to follow in what it meant to be a loving wife, an amazing mother, a beloved grandmother, and a caring and dear friend.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Terry Fay, and is survived by her children and their spouses – daughter, Wendy Mason and her husband, Brian; son, Michael Fay and his wife, Jennifer; her brother and sisters, Michael McNamara, Debbie Mansager, and Meggie McNamara, and her adored grandchildren – Zoe, Avery, Ava, Tre, and Vivian.

A private Celebration of Life will be held later this year. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Hospice of the Valley. This amazing organization made both our mother's and our last few days together peaceful and memorable. Donations can be made online at www.hov.org/donate/donate-now/.

We would like to request that anyone with a funny story, memory, and/or picture of Pat to please consider sending them to the following email address: patfaymemories@gmail.com. These will be used to create a book to document the amazing woman our mother was for her grandchildren to remember her by.