



Patrick Charles O'Connor

July 31, 1952 - January 25, 2021

PATRICK CHARLES O'CONNOR, 68, passed away unexpectedly on January 25, 2021. Pat was born in Aberdeen, South Dakota , July 31, 1952. His family moved to Hot Springs, SD, where he graduated high school in 1970. As a kid, Pat worked from an early age. He delivered papers and worked countless hours at the local grocery store in South Dakota. He also enjoyed watching his oldest brother drag race. He attended Chadron State College and earned a teaching degree in Industrial Arts. He was a teacher and coach at Lingle/Ft. Laramie for forty years. He coached football, wrestling and track. He had a lot of success as a coach, including being a part of multiple state championships, induction into the Wyoming Coach's Hall of Fame, and numerous other coaching accolades. Someone described Pat as a teacher/coach who impacted more young people in one year than the average person does in a lifetime.

On June 7, 1975 Pat married Shelley Tubbs and to this union was born one son, Ryan, who later married Cortney. They gave Pat and Shelley two granddaughters, Josephine and Irelynn.

In retirement Pat enjoyed being a substitute teacher in Goshen County, and worked at old Fort Laramie seasonally. His most prized job in retirement was being the best grandpa to Josephine and Irelynn. Other passions included fishing, poker, community service, regularly attending Catholic mass, and road

trips with Shelley. A few retirement highlights included going to a Notre Dame football game with his son, Ryan and a few good buddies, and a road trip to Ireland with his Thoren family in 2017. Pat never knew a stranger and made friends wherever he went. His dedication to teaching and coaching extended into the lives of his students and peers. His devotion to his students and athletes was unmatched. He was more than just a teacher; he would drop anything to support, listen to and help his students and athletes. He did the same for his peers. Some of his best friends were fellow coaches and those who knew Pat knew he loved socializing with his friends at the annual Wyoming Coaches Association Clinic. He was a legend of a man, known and loved by many across the state of Wyoming. He will forever be missed, but his legacy of working hard, having fun, and giving to others will always remain in the hearts and lives of those who knew him.

Pat is survived by his wife Shelley of Torrington, Wyoming; son Ryan (Cortney Thoren) O'Connor of Thermopolis, Wyoming; granddaughters Josephine and Irelynn of Thermopolis; brothers Don (Mary) O'Connor of Ft. Pierre, South Dakota, Dick (Mary) O'Connor and Mike (Reina) O'Connor all of Hot Springs, South Dakota; sister Peggy (Jim) Moos of Panama City Beach, Florida; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents Alvin and Magdalene O'Connor.

The family will be having a small church service and rosary with immediate family and there will be a celebration of life that everyone is welcome to attend in July in Lingle on the football field. In lieu of flowers the family will be starting a local scholarship in Pat's name where donations are welcome. Check donations can be made to Shelley or Cortney O'Connor or cash donations can be dropped off at any Pinnacle Bank location for the Pat O'Connor Memorial.

Tribute Wall

TA

“ Teri And Doug Armstrong lit a candle in memory of Patrick Charles O'Connor



Teri and Doug Armstrong - February 06, 2021 at 07:52 PM



“ Lisa Lawrence lit a candle in memory of Patrick Charles O'Connor



Lisa Lawrence - February 02, 2021 at 03:32 AM



“ Jody Patch lit a candle in memory of Patrick Charles O'Connor



Jody Patch - February 01, 2021 at 07:37 PM

BO

“ Bob Otero lit a candle in memory of Patrick Charles O'Connor



Bob Otero - January 31, 2021 at 11:05 AM



“ *Pat was truly an excellent human being. Touched so many lives!* ”



Tracy & Dave Johnson - January 29, 2021 at 08:02 AM



“ *Tracy lit a candle in memory of Patrick Charles O'Connor* ”



Tracy - January 29, 2021 at 07:58 AM



“ *I'm so so sorry Shelly. I pray for comfort for you at this time. You've always held a very special place in my heart and i hurt for you now, knowing how much your heart must be breaking. Much love, big hugs and many prayers for you and your family.* ”

Gayle Hascall - January 28, 2021 at 05:45 PM



“ *Gayle Hascall lit a candle in memory of Patrick Charles O'Connor* ”



Gayle Hascall - January 28, 2021 at 05:40 PM

JH

“ Pat was a close friend of mine since we met on the playground at the old school on the hill in Hot Springs. He and I used to serve morning weekday mass at St. Anthony’s parish and walk to school —up the steps by the fire station—enjoying a little cold pancake snack provided by John Yeager. I learned of his success in coaching and teaching over the years and was mighty happy for him. We got reconnected at the 1970 alum reunion and kept in a bit of touch since then. I enjoyed meeting his wife Shelley and visiting with him at Ft. Lingle; and last fall at his coffee stop at the Triple T in Torrington. He was one of my best friends. Sure liked him. Prayers and blessings to Shelly and Ryan/family and all family and friends. RIP, Pat.

Joe Hiller - January 28, 2021 at 04:39 PM

KE

“ Pat was a wonderful friend and colleague whom we held in high regard. Our sincere condolences are sent to Shelley and family.
Howard & Karin Eisenhauer



Karin Eisenhauer - January 28, 2021 at 10:56 AM

MM

Pat was a good teacher, good man, and a true friend. He touched so many lives, we will miss him.
Kenny Wayne, Merrijane, Joe and Ashley Morgheim

Merrijane Clark Morgheim - January 30, 2021 at 10:02 AM

SD

“ Sue Moore Davis lit a candle in memory of Patrick Charles O'Connor



Sue Moore Davis - January 28, 2021 at 09:58 AM

WB

“ Our deepest sympathy and prayers go out to Shelley and the entire family at this tender time. Wayne and Ronnie Kay Brown



Wayne and Ronnie Kay Brown - January 28, 2021 at 08:50 AM

DF

“ Pat was a wonderful friend. I worked with O'C for 20 years and we have remained friends since retirement. Oh, so many memories and stories. I will cherish them forever.

Dick Fullmer

Dick Fullmer - January 27, 2021 at 11:11 PM

PF

“ Friends are friends forever and we will Pat close to our hearts until we see him again!

Pat and Dick Fullmer



Patricia Fullmer - January 27, 2021 at 10:53 PM

TA

“ Teri Armstrong lit a candle in memory of Patrick Charles O'Connor



Teri Armstrong - January 27, 2021 at 07:44 PM

Jw
Karlsten

“ Pat & I were classmates at HSHS & graduated together in 1970. If I remember correctly, he was even a date at a school dance. Back then he was a very caring & nice young man & sounds like from other posts, that never changed. Blessings & Prayers to all who's life Pat touched. Joyce Williamson a/k/a JW Karlsten

Jw Karlsten - January 27, 2021 at 07:02 PM

EC

“ Sending my condolences to Mrs O'Connor, my HS French teacher, and your family. I'm so sorry that this has happened. Thinking of you. Erin Cassity

Erin Cassity - January 27, 2021 at 06:11 PM

DH

“ Pat remains a man among men. His humor, wit and gentle spirit was a blessing to every life he touched.



Dolly Heyl - January 27, 2021 at 04:37 PM

RB

“ Coach O'Connor and I worked together at LFL High School from 1975 to 1980 and have remained friends since. I have so many memories of those times but sadly (since Pat was a bit of a prankster) I can't share many. I do remember his his wit and great heart. He will surely be missed.
Robert Bramlet

Robert Bramlet - January 27, 2021 at 04:35 PM

TE

“ *Trish Eisenbarth lit a candle in memory of Patrick Charles O'Connor*



Trish Eisenbarth - January 27, 2021 at 04:11 PM

CP

“ *Carol Peterson lit a candle in memory of Patrick Charles O'Connor*



Carol Peterson - January 27, 2021 at 02:11 PM