



Patricia A. Vanderhorst

May 29, 1931 - April 10, 2026

Patricia Ann Vanderhorst ("Pat"), age 94, was born on May 29, 1931, in Detroit, Michigan, to Frank and Gertrude (Kowalski) Rohs. She was the eldest of three daughters, predeceased by her sisters Marilyn (1936-2015) and Frances (1935, who passed away at nine months old). Pat was of Austrian and Hungarian descent on her father's side and Polish on her mother's side.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Gertrude Rohs, her sisters, Marilyn and Frances Rohs; her stepson and daughter-in-law, Gerry and Rita Vanderhorst; and her beloved husband, Nicholas Vanderhorst.

She is survived by her children: Mark (Tammy) Vanderhorst, Cheryl (Rob) Brindley, Brian (Kathy) Vanderhorst, her loving grandchildren: Kris (Bryan) Webb, Gerry (Karla) Vanderhorst; Nick (Samantha) Brindley, Robby Brindley Jr. cherished great-grandchildren: Emerson Vanderhorst, Awbrye Webb, Rylee Vanderhorst, Boden Brindley, and Hudson Brindley.

Patricia was raised Catholic in Detroit near 6 Mile and Gratiot on Flanders Street. As the eldest daughter, she grew up in a hardworking family-her father a bread truck driver and her mother a factory worker and talented ceramic and painting artist. Pat attended St. David Catholic School from kindergarten through 12th grade, where she developed strong skills in reading, writing,

math, and penmanship. After graduating in 1949, she began her career as a legal secretary in the Fisher Building, known for her exceptional typing and shorthand abilities and admired by the attorneys she supported.

On February 22, 1958, she married Nicholas Vanderhorst. Together they raised four children: Mark, Cheryl, Brian, and Gerry, Nick's oldest son. Pat created a home filled with love, structure, and fun. She was highly organized and a natural planner, ensuring her family enjoyed a modest but adventure filled life. The family motto was, "A family that plays together stays together."

Pat and Nick were active members of the Fire Siders camping club, where they formed lifelong friendships and created countless cherished memories. Camping and boating were among Pat's favorite pastimes. She also bowled in a neighborhood league for more than 20 years, earning awards for her many "over 200" games. A creative spirit, she enjoyed sewing, ceramics, card making, and painting-following in her mother's artistic footsteps. Pat loved hosting gatherings, planning parties, and celebrating every holiday. She even planned her own birthday parties. She truly was " FUN !"

Faith was a core part of Pat's life. Although raised Catholic, she and Nick chose to raise their family in the Lutheran church. They were devoted members of Redemption Lutheran Church, Detroit, Michigan from 1958 to 1986, and later Hope Lutheran Church, Warren, Michigan from 1986 to the present. Through outreach, service projects, and fellowship, they built deep friendships and lived out their devotion to Jesus Christ. In the 1990s, Pat and Nick attended the Via de Cristo retreat, which strengthened their faith and deepened their spiritual journey together.

Above all, Pat loved her family and friends. She was a devoted wife, mother,

grandmother, and great grandmother. Her greatest joy came from preparing for the next gathering, celebration, or family activity. She lived life fully-loving freely, giving generously, and leading with joy. She taught those around her how to live with love, simplicity, and gratitude.

Pat passed peacefully, quietly taking her last breath in the middle of the night with family close by her side.

In the days before her passing, she often expressed that she was "ready" and patiently waiting to be reunited with her husband. On, April 10, 2026, she entered the Lord's house and is now resting in eternal peace with her Savior. She will be remembered for her love, her laughter, her creativity, and the joy she brought to every gathering. Her legacy lives on in the family she cherished and the many lives she touched.

A funeral service will take place on Saturday, April 18, 2026, with instate at 10am until the time of the service at 11am at Hope Lutheran Church, 32400 Hoover Road in Warren. Pat will be laid to rest at Resurrection Cemetery immediately following the funeral service at the church. The family asks that any memorial donations in honor of Patricia be made out to Hope Lutheran Church at <https://hopewarren.breezechms.com/give/online>, or to the wishes of the family.

Cemetery Details

Resurrection Cemetery

18201 Clinton River Road
Clinton Township, MI 48038

Previous Events

Instate At Church

APR 18. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Hope Lutheran Church
32400 Hoover Road
Warren, MI 48093

Funeral Service

APR 18. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Hope Lutheran Church
32400 Hoover Road
Warren, MI 48093

Tribute Wall

SP

“ Pat was forever such a happy person to be around and enjoyed life to the fullest. Matt was always amazed that she jumped off the high-dive at the lake when she was 80 years old. We will definitely miss that smile and laughter. May she rest in eternal peace. She will be truly missed by all that she has touched. Our love and prayers are with all the family. Shelly and Matt Pattison.

Shelly Pattison - April 17 at 02:19 PM

LJ

“ Love Rick and Mary Jayne purchased the In Heaven's Arms Bouquet for the family of Patricia A. Vanderhorst.



Love Rick and Mary Jayne - April 16 at 09:19 PM

LS

“ Cheryl and family,
My condolences on the loss of your loved one.
She will always be with you, just touch your heart, she is there always.
Much love,

Lori Slaughter - April 16 at 04:07 PM

DG

“ It's funny how memories come to mind when you write tributes to people and families who have impacted your life so much. If you knew the Vanderhorst's you always had a laugh and fun when you were together.

I feel so blessed to have been reunited with the Vanderhorst Clan during my stay in Michigan in 2023. Pat was such a breath of fresh air. She was so positive and lovable to be around. I had forgotten how I admired her when I was a kid. I fondly remember Pat and Hank taking Brian and I on a motorcycle ride down Moravian Drive when we were in our early teens. I was so inspired by Pat because she could drive a big motorcycle, and with me on the back. I know now that her example of courage and toughness certainly had an impact on my life.

Pat was the definition of "trooper" because she had no fear, which was one of the personality traits that united us in many aspects of life. As one of Brian's best friends, we were wild to the core, and I always loved that we could be ourselves around Pat. She was one of the "cool" mom's in the neighborhood,

Pat raised her kids with integrity, kindness and generosity. Cheryl, who played volleyball at MSU, inspired me to follow in her footsteps to be a student athlete as well. Brian helped me find work during a lapse in my college career. And Mark was the other brother I got to meet and hang out with during that visit in 2023.

Until we meet again, I love and miss you Pat!

Diane Gentry - April 16 at 03:02 AM

KW

“ Ohhh, Pat! You often were the life of the party! I cherish all of the memories we made camping together & also at events at your house & ours!
Everyone loved being with you because you were always the FUN, UPBEAT, “let’s do it “ friend. YOU made FUN wherever you were or whatever you were doing. I admired that in you. Thank you for all of the memories, dear friend❤️

Kathy & BJ Warchuck - April 15 at 11:25 PM

CW

“ We didn't know your mom but I know Cheryl, so she must have been a wonderful lady! Our hearts and prayers are with you all 🙏

Cindy/Leo Wiseman - April 15 at 08:30 AM