



Dorothy 'Patty' Clayton

July 19, 1956 - January 5, 2026

Dorothy “Patty” Clayton, 69, of Bristol, WI, passed away peacefully on January 5, 2026, surrounded by the family who loved her so deeply. She was born on July 19, 1956, in Chicago to Irene and Orville Clayton.

Patty spent her early childhood in Chicago before moving to Lake Villa at the age of 13, where she joined the home of her brother Bob and sister-in-law Kathy. They welcomed her with open arms, raising her as one of their own in a home filled with warmth, laughter, and unconditional love. Growing up alongside her niece and nephew, Robbie and Kelly, Patty found not only family but a lifelong sense of belonging.

Family was everything to Patty. She cherished every gathering, every conversation, and every small moment shared with the people she loved. She took tremendous pride in her nieces, Kelly and Jillian, and her nephew, Robbie—celebrating their milestones and joys as if they were her own. Yet nothing lit up her world quite like her three great-nephews, Ryan, Blake, and Rhett. Patty adored babysitting them, spoiling them, and watching them grow. Their laughter, their hugs, and the simple joy of being part of their everyday lives filled her heart in ways words can only begin to express.

Her family will forever remember her unmistakable greeting whenever she called. The moment you answered the phone, you’d hear her familiar, loving

voice say, “Hey you, what you doing?” It was simple, sweet, and so very Patty—an expression that wrapped you in love before the conversation even began.

Patty is survived by her nephew Robert (Jeni) of Burlington, WI; her nieces Kelly (Brian) Tolbert of Antioch, IL, and Jillian (Dan) O’Brien of Lindenhurst, IL; her sisters-in-law Kathleen (John) Jansen of Lake Villa, IL, and Libby (Gary) Petroff of Grayslake, IL; and her cherished great-nephews Ryan, Blake, and Rhett. She is further survived by a large extended family who will forever hold her close in their hearts.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Irene and Orville Clayton, and her brothers, Robert Clayton Sr. and James Clayton.

A private celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Tribute Wall

KS

“ I worked with Patty since 2010, she was the second person hired at DesignStudio right after I was. As Anthony mentioned, the 3 of us worked out of small spare bedroom in Mundelein. There wasn't much room, but I think the limited space gave us the opportunity to chat and really get to know one another. She was kind and caring, with an wonderfully unexpected sense of humor. It was truly a pleasure to know her and work with her for all those years! She will be deeply missed by all that knew her!

Kevin Sherman - January 08 at 11:05 AM



“ Patty has been a faithful and trustworthy member of our team at DesignStudio for 16 years. She was one of the first members of our team, hired back around 2010. At that time, there were just 3 of us, and we were operating out of a small spare bedroom in Mundelein, IL. Over the years, we often referred to Patty reverently as "The Keeper of the Books". She has been helping us as our bookkeeper through many tough and good times, and I will always appreciate her contributions to our team.

Anthony Matiya - January 08 at 10:19 AM

BR

“ I've been a co-worker of Patty's at DesignStudio since early 2019. She was always so kind and helpful. She also remembered people's birthdays and work anniversaries and always had nice greetings to pass along in our Slack channel. She will be missed.

Brandy Rosenquist - January 07 at 01:37 PM

DO

I worked with Patty at temko for a very long time. She was so funny and had a great sense of humor. I will truly miss my Pabie

Donna - January 07 at 05:28 PM

H(

“ Oh I'm so terribly sad that you're gone, I tried to see you last October but got no response, I love you Patty you have always been in my heart and prayers. We had wonderful times when we were young, Halloween, Thanksgiving and of course birthdays. You had a difficult life as did I growing up and when you moved to live with your brother Bobby I lost my closest friend/sister. You didn't have any and neither did I, you, Yolanda, Joyce were my sisters when I would come on the weekends. You feed me my first Steakums lol. We laughed, cried and everything in between, you guys taught me how to defend myself and be strong. I miss you and love you to the moon and back and then some more, give Yogi a huge hug and kiss for me and for my dad too. See you in heaven 🙏



Hilda Carreon (Gigi) - January 07 at 11:51 AM