

## Patricia Kasdan Obituary



Patricia "Pat" Kasdan (nee MacDermot) passed peacefully in her sleep on March 7, 2025, in Washington, DC. A wonderful, vibrant soul, she was married to (Alan) Richard Kasdan (d. 2023) and is survived by her son David, 56, and her two grandchildren, Olivia, 18, and Connor, 15, all of Westchester County, NY. Born June 28, 1940, in NYC, the daughter of Ilah (Ellen), from the Hudson Valley, and Patrick, an Irishman, Pat was raised from the age of 7 by her single mother and aunt on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, where she attended the prestigious Marymount School for Girls and spent her summers in Saranac Lake, NY in the Adirondacks. She graduated from Manhattanville College (University) and earned her Master's degree in Psychology from George Washington University in her 30s.

A lifelong proponent of social justice, Pat was ahead of the curve and joined the Peace Corps shortly after college, in one of the organization's early groups of volunteers. She was in the first group to go to the Philippines, where she spent two years on a small island teaching English, Math, and devoting much of her time building houses, facilities and enhancing the wonderful community of people she fell in love with. This was a formative and foundational time in her life, making lifelong Filipino relationships and establishing her deepest forever friendships with her volunteer peers.

After returning to the States, Pat met and married Richard, a lawyer from Brooklyn, NY, and settled a few years later in Washington, DC. She took a few years off to raise her toddler son, then continued her passions for social service and psychology working at USAID, and held long-term positions in clinical research at GWU and the National Institutes of Health. Even in retirement, Pat continued to work to better the lives of others, becoming a founding member in 2009 of Northwest Neighbors Village, a community to assist seniors and support the "aging in place" movement, which now has over 250 members and over 140 volunteers.

A survivor of breast cancer in her 50s, she lived a healthy and active life, enjoying authentic and deep friendships, the arts, world culture, travel, and a myriad of social groups and activities, even starting yoga in her late 60s and into her 80s.

Pat's greatest joy in life was her role as "GaGa" to her two grandchildren. Ever-present in their lives, she doted on them every chance she got, hosting them in DC often and making frequent trips to NY to spend time with them as they grew up. Even during her recent 5+ year battle with bladder cancer, she would pack a bag, hop on the Metro, then Amtrak, and head up to Westchester, always with thoughtful little gifts in tow. That's Gaga.

Pat always put the needs of others ahead of her own and always had a kind word, a bright beaming smile, a thoughtful idea, a considerate gift, a tasteful joke, a genuine hug, or a positive spin for her loved ones, friends, and even casual acquaintances. She was a true gem who never lost the majestic art of curiosity or her authentic grace of kindness. Pat's lovely nature will be dearly missed, yet her wonderful energy and bright spirit continue on through all who knew and loved her.

A Celebration of Life gathering for Pat will be held on Sunday, March 23, from 12 to 3 p.m., at The Women's National Democratic Club, 1526 New Hampshire Ave NW, Washington, DC 20036 (corner of Q St.). Please dress as you like and be comfortable. A light lunch, snacks, and beverages will be served in a joyous, conversational, and casual atmosphere as Pat would have it.

Never one to waste (she donated her body to science, not ceremony), Pat would wish, in lieu of flowers or any material honor, that donations be made to:

-Peace Corps Alumnae Foundation for Philippine Development, <https://rpcvphilippines.org/>

-Northwest Neighbors Village, <https://www.nnvdc.org/> or

-National Peace Corps Association, <https://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/more-ways-to-give/>.

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