



## Patricia Filiatreau

December 25, 1934 - January 6, 2012

Patricia Filiatreau

Dateline: Murrells Inlet, SC

Patricia Dawson Filiatreau, age 77, of 4993 Fulton Place, died Friday, January 6, 2012 at Hospice of Charleston in Mt. Pleasant.

Born in Watertown, NY, she was the daughter of the late George and Esther Dawson. Mrs. Filiatreau volunteered for the Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, Meals on Wheels and the Helping Hands Food Pantry of Murrells Inlet. She was an avid reader and belonged to two book clubs in Prestwick and Wachesaw Plantation. Mrs. Filiatreau graduated valedictorian Black River High School in Black River, NY in 1952. She also graduated with honors from Potsdam State Teachers College in 1956. She taught elementary school in North Syracuse, NY for one year and was an elementary school librarian for 15 years. Mrs. Filiatreau raised her family and lived in Fairfax, VA for 40 years and moved to Murrells inlet in 1999. She was a member of The Episcopal Church of the Resurrection. She is preceded in death by her brother Richard Dawson.

She is survived by her husband of 54 years Frank Filiatreau, Jr., children; Francis (Pete) R. Filiatreau III and wife Bonnie of Derwood, MD, Mark D.

Filiatreau and wife Svetlana of Fairfax, VA, Christopher G. Filiatreau of Arlington, VA and Suzanne Crowfoot and husband Stephen of Mt. Pleasant, SC, grandchildren; John Lucas, Anya and Daniel Filiatreau, Sasha Hoptiak, Emma and Toby Crowfoot; and brother David Dawson of Middletown, NJ.

A memorial service will be held Friday, January 13, 2012 at 10:00 AM at The Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, 8901 Highway 17 Bypass South Surfside Beach, SC 29575.

Memorial donations may be made to The MDS Foundation, INC. 4573 S. Broad St. Suite 150 Yardville, NJ. 08620.

An online guestbook is available at [www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com](http://www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com).

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

# Tribute Wall

MF

“ These reflections were presented at my mother's memorial service, Friday morning, January 16, at Episcopal Church of the Resurrection in Murrells Inlet, South Carolina.

*Patricia D. Filiatreau*

*December 25, 1934 – January 6, 2012*

*Reflections*

*Jan. 13, 2012*

*I collected reflections about my mother and her life, so what follows are not my words mostly but yours and those who could not be with us today.*

*We remember her as a kind, wonderful woman. Considerate, caring, smart, witty and always looking for the good in others. Welcoming and loving. Cheerful, intentionally so. Cheerful when it was not easy to be cheerful. That was part of how she put others, not herself, first.*

*Her joy for others' well-being, shined out in her smile and bright blue eyes. She seemed to have been born with a sparkle in her eye. Certainly that sparkle placed love in all our hearts, a beacon for our own spouses, children, friends, and people we meet. She had a smile that would light up a room as well as light up a home.*

*My dad said that if she had one characteristic it was altruism. She was always looking out for someone else. She was selfless. Dad said he would kid her that she “would give the shirt off of her back to a bum on the street” and she'd respond, “I don't care, that's the way I am.”*

*Everyone I talked to likewise remembered her love for others. She defined love for us. If there was someone around that no one could get along with, Mom would get along with them. And that person*

*always spoke well of her afterwards. Mom was the trusted diplomat between antagonists.*

*My sister-in-law Bonnie told me "I never heard her say anything bad about another person." That is an example for us all.*

*She taught us kids what love is, not by talking about it but by putting it deep within us. Not merely affection, which is easy to have for your kids, but the kind of love that asks for nothing in return. And she had that love for all relatives, friends, co-workers and strangers.*

*My brother Pete reminded us that Mom was an active listener. She really listened to you, not like most of us, just waiting our turn to say something. After talking with her, you felt more grounded in life, in reality. The world seemed more right, and you felt more right about who you were. She made you feel welcome. She was always interested in what you had to say.*

*There are many stories about how her love came out in her hospitality to others.*

*At least once here in Murrels Inlet she invited to Thanksgiving dinner a gentlemen who didn't speak much English and whose family was in central America. In Virginia, she let her niece Mary move in from New York, so that Mary could go to college here, and did the same later for her niece Julie so that Julie could get started in N. Virginia. She was always taking care of everybody else, always.*

*My wife, Svetlana, said that her mother-in-law gave her a family. She married me 9 years ago and her own family was scattered around Ukraine and Macedonia, and all her friends and church family were in Canada. She and her 13 yo daughter Sasha came here to Murrells Inlet for 3 months and my mom created a sense of family that she and Sasha had never had before. Unconditional love, acceptance, encouragement to try new things. My wife says "Acceptance of Sasha as a grand child meant more to me than anything else. Rejoicing in her successes, sharing wisdom with me*

*about mothering a teenager, attending her performances, her graduation from high school and college.”*

*My uncle Tom also writes about the wonderful love she always showed to others in hospitality. He said “Ten years ago when my daughter Lisa and her family were vacationing in Myrtle Beach, your mom invited the whole family over for dinner. She found out that it was Conner's 6th birthday and when they arrived, they found the house decorated with streamers and balloons along with a large candle-covered cake baked for the occasion. That was 10 years ago and Conner remembers it to this day.*

*Uncle Tom adds, “Please read for us this verse from Hebrews 13:2.*

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**Mark Filiatreau** - January 14, 2012 at 11:19 AM

MR

“ *I first met Pat and Frank when I started cleaning their house back in 2006. Pat was a very caring woman. She could make you smile with her kindness. I'm very blessed to have met such a wonderful lady. She's going to be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with her family during this time of sorrow.*

*Love, Michele Rhue*

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**Michele Rhue** - January 13, 2012 at 08:53 AM

DD

“ *My Sister Patricia*

*Words cannot express the sadness that I feel at the loss of my one and only sister. She was the best sister a guy could have growing up and stayed that way until her untimely end. I vividly remember her high school graduation, her college graduation, her engagement to Frank, her marriage and then the birth of her children as if it was last*

*week. For the younger people here, they should know that TIME DOES FLY.*

*Pat had a smile that would light up a room as well as light up a home...her smile and her presence will now light up the universe. She is now with God, our mom, Esther, our Dad George and her brother Dick.*

*Her husband Frank is without a doubt her best decision in life. My thoughts and wishes are with him and their great children and grandkids. God Bless you all.*

*My mom once said that as long as once person here on earth can keep another in memory, that person lives amongst us. I always believed my mom. Bless you sister... Forever.*

*Love, David and Suzanne Dawson*

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**David Dawson** - January 13, 2012 at 07:56 AM

JD

“ *We will always have fond memories of Aunt Pat making the long journey to the lake in Chaumont every summer. The great memories of her visiting with my father, and grandmother can never be replaced. She will be forever missed.....Julie, Danny, Connor, Reno, and Alex Dawson Suarez*

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**Julie Dawson** - January 12, 2012 at 09:55 PM

JD

“ I'll always recall great memories while growing up and visiting Aunt Pat and Uncle Fil in Fairfax to visit my cousins Chris, Mark, Pete and Suzanne. Aunt Pat always made us feel at home and always had a smile on her face. We always looked forward to our next visit and playing with the mysterious laundry chute she had. I think the thoughtfulness, patience and kindness that she showed for her mother (my dear Grandma Dawson) during her final years and days says enough about the kind of person she was.

Love,

Jeff, Kristen and Aiden Dawson

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Jeff Dawson - January 12, 2012 at 07:22 PM

LH

“ Dear Sam,  
I'm so sorry to read about your mom passing away. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Love

Linda Hoagland

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Linda Hoagland - January 12, 2012 at 08:03 AM

BF

“ There are no short phrases or words that describe your Mom. We are so saddened at the loss of one of our best friends. I remember a long time ago that your Dad asked me if Pat was the "one." I said I could not speak for him but that it was always wise to marry someone smarter than you. I'm glad he took my advise. I can only describe your Mom as kind, considerate, caring, smart, witty and always looking for the good in others. Her love for her family and others is a memory that that will last me a lifetime.

*Love, Uncle Bill*

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**Bill Filiatreau** - January 11, 2012 at 10:03 PM

SF

“ Mark: I'm so sorry for your Mom's passing away. I'll always remember her kindness and patience. Your family is in my prayers.

*Peace, Steven*

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**Steven Ferri** - January 10, 2012 at 05:17 PM

RJ

“ My mother, Midge Jorns, taught with Pat for many years. I think they even endured going golfing with my father on a few occasions. Mom spoke very fondly of times spent with Pat and considered her a good friend. I hope you find peace in knowing her suffering is over.

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**Rebecca (Jorns) Julca** - January 10, 2012 at 03:43 PM

KN

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I am sure you have many fine memories of your loved one that will bring you a measure of comfort during these trying times. Our loving heavenly Father is the "God of all comfort" and he can and will help you through this difficult period because "he cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7)

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**Karolyn Nichols** - January 09, 2012 at 03:16 PM