



Patricia Morrow

August 3, 1925 - June 14, 2024

Marylin Patricia Mills Morrow, 98, of Jacksonville, died on June 14, 2024 at St. Vincent's

Hospital in Jacksonville, FL.

She was born on August 1925 on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota at a time

when older people there remembered the Custer fight. "Patsy" or "Pat" was the youngest of four

children born to Naomi Russell Mills and David Henry Mills. She was only 20 months old when

her mother died in childbirth after a fall. Her father later remarried.

When she turned five, Pat was sent to board at the Holy Rosary Mission School (now called the

Red Cloud Indian School) in Pine Ridge, where she completed 7th grade.

The school was only

five miles away from her home, but this distance was significant in those days.

Pat was already

familiar with the mission and was so happy to be able to go to school there. At Holy Rosary,

many students spoke Lakota but classes were held in English. A stellar student, Pat skipped 6th

grade. The school was run by the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity. Pat

retained a rich and detailed memory of her life at the school and she credits the Irish and German

Sisters with laying the foundation for academic excellence, a strong work ethic and a love of music and poetry.

Her father worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the family moved to New Mexico in

1936 where her father had been transferred. Pat attended St. Catherine's Indian School,

Albuquerque Indian School and graduated from the Santa Fe Indian School in 1941 at age 16.

She qualified as the valedictorian but had to settle for salutatorian because only a male could claim the top spot.

Pat wanted to be a nurse, but at 16, she was too young to attend nursing school. Her stepmother

sent her to Minnesota and then Wisconsin to take care of her stepsister's children. Ever anxious

to learn, Pat took additional classes at a local high school.

When she turned 18, she started a three-year nursing school program at the Hotel Dieu School of

Nursing in El Paso, run by the Sisters of Charity. Because of the war, there was a shortage of

doctors and medical supplies and students were given a lot of responsibility.

Pat graduated early

and received her diploma in January 1946, but it was not considered legal until her class

officially graduated in September.

In May 1946, she married a handsome Navy pilot, Raymond Kenneth Morrow, Jr. whom she had

met the year before in El Paso. The newlyweds moved around following

military orders and eventually settled in Jacksonville, FL. before the marriage ended in divorce. To support her four boys, she worked as an obstetrics nurse at St. Vincents and Baptist Hospitals and later for the late Dr. Max Suter. In retirement she worked part-time at a women's health care clinic. She ensured that all four boys went through St. Matthew's School and got a proper Catholic education. Pat was known to her family as "Unci," a Lakota word meaning Grandmother or honored female elder. At reunions with other members of the Mills family, respect for this honorific was particularly notable.

Throughout her life, Pat had an extraordinary memory and could recount details as far back as early childhood. Many of these memories are preserved in an informal memoir, shared with family members, that was transcribed by a close family friend who interviewed her in 2017.

She is remembered for her love of family and friends, her generous spirit and inquisitive nature.

Pat was predeceased in death by her brothers Benny and Roy, her sister Geri, by sons Jerry and Ken. Survivors include her sons, Patrick of Jacksonville and Don (Ann) of Tallahassee; grandchildren Ken Morrow, Corey Pearson, Melissa Grunthal, Ben Gipson, Anna Sortwell and Carson Morrow; eleven great-grandchildren and beloved nieces, nephews,

cousins and other

Mills family members.

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

Contributions in Pat's memory may be made to Running Strong for American Indian Youth at

Indianyouth.org.; 8301 Richmond Highway, Ste. 200, Alexandria, VA 22309.

Tribute Wall

RM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Roy Mills - June 24, 2024 at 11:45 PM

RS

“ Russ and Sharon purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Patricia Morrow.



Russ and Sharon - June 24, 2024 at 11:21 PM

RS

“ Russ and Sharon planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Patricia Morrow.

Russ and Sharon - June 24, 2024 at 11:21 PM

BP

“ *Pat in Rome visiting a close family friend*



Barbara P - June 22, 2024 at 10:55 AM

BP

“ *Dearest Pat, cherished correspondent for half a century, confidante, sharer of stories, inner and outer lives, laughter and tears. Kindred spirit, valuer of love and words. Mother of my heart I am grateful for our friendship. Love, Barbara*

Barbara P - June 22, 2024 at 10:53 AM

DM

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Don Morrow - June 20, 2024 at 04:14 PM

DM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Don Morrow - June 20, 2024 at 04:11 PM

DM

“ Over the last few years we took my mom on picnics, to local parks and sometimes just on her front porch. Here are some photos.



Don Morrow - June 20, 2024 at 04:09 PM