



## Patrick "Pat" Michael Fitzgibbon

December 27, 1951 - June 14, 2021

Patrick Michael Fitzgibbon, 69, of Traverse City, formerly of Saginaw, Michigan passed away peacefully on Monday, June 14, 2021 at Cherry Hill Haven, after a courageous battle with early onset Alzheimer's Disease.

Pat was born in Cadillac, Michigan on December 27, 1951 to the late Bill and Alma Fitzgibbon. Patrick grew up in Bullock Creek (Midland) with his siblings Tom, Kevin and Mary. After high school graduation he headed to the U.P. for college, following his brother Tom to Northern Michigan University. Pat received a Bachelor of Science degree from NMU in 1974. While at NMU in Marquette, Pat met Joan and they married in Iron Mountain, MI on August 17, 1974. He was employed for his entire career with the State of Michigan in Saginaw County. Pat worked in Children's Services and later as a Supervisor of Children's Protective Services. At age 55 he retired and he and Joan moved to Traverse City.

Pat is survived by his wife of 46 years, Joan, daughter, Erin (James) Robertson of Royal Oak, and son, Patrick (Allison) Fitzgibbon of Ferndale. Four grandchildren; Cameron and Parker Robertson, both serving in the U.S. Marine Corps, Dylan and Louise Fitzgibbon, of Ferndale, also survive him. Pat's brother, Tom, predeceased him. Surviving siblings are Kevin (Craig Zeese) Fitzgibbon of St. Louis, MI and Mary Fitzgibbon of Boston, MA. Pat is also survived by close relatives Jean (David) Miller of Royal Oak, and Andrew Miller of Las Vegas, NV. Two nephews, Ian and Brian Miller, predeceased him. Also left behind, niece Alexandra Fitzgibbon, (Brett Campbell), great nieces Rylie and Bella Campbell, nephew Jesse (Brandy) Fitzgibbon, great niece Fiona Fitzgibbon, Sister-in-law Pamela (Peter) Schmidt, all of Traverse City. Pat also had many cousins in Midland, MI, all of whom shared in his idyllic childhood of camping, playing outside and large family gatherings. He leaves behind many special friends, most of whom shared his passion for the outdoors.

Throughout Pat's life he enjoyed outdoor activities - and he passed on that love to his children and grandchildren. He loved hiking year-round, kayaking, canoeing, cross country

skiing, back packing, and snowshoeing. Bicycling, however, was his first and greatest love. He rode the TART nearly every day. He loved tinkering with and fixing bicycles. Pat did many long distance, multiple day rides through Michigan and Wisconsin with his biking friends. All of these activities were enjoyed well into his Alzheimer's journey.

Traveling was a passion he and Joan enjoyed together, going to destinations in Europe and the US even after his diagnosis. Staying physically fit was always a goal. Pat walked to downtown Traverse City for coffee every day until a few years ago. He also loved a good craft beer and visiting breweries.

A Celebration of Pat's life will take place at 11:30 a.m., with visiting starting at 11:00 a.m., on Monday, June 21, 2021 at the Botanic Garden at Historic Barns Park, 1490 Red Drive, Traverse City, MI 49684.

Please consider making a donation in Pat's honor to El Grupo Norte', a youth bicycling organization, or the Traverse Area Recreational Trail, which he rode often.

Thank you to the caring staffs at Willow Cottage and Cherry Hill Haven, for the excellent care Pat received for the past 18 months. Also, a huge thank you to wonderful friends and family who spent time, traveled, and helped us through the past 11 years of living well with Alzheimer's Disease.

Please feel free to share your thoughts and memories with Pat's family at his tribute page at <http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com>.

The family is being cared for by the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

# Comments

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“ Send BEAUTIFUL Flowers Locally to the family of Patrick "Pat" Michael Fitzgibbon. Express your condolences, giving comfort and support. [Click here to view selections on our website](#)

**Send Flowers** - June 15 at 08:02 PM

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“ Joan, I just got notice of Pat's passing from Karin Hamling Hobbs. I am devastated. Pat was one of the most decent people I have ever known and was one of my supervisors at FIA. I remember when you sold your Saginaw house so that when you retired you could just pick up and find a place in TC. I am glad you did that. He was such a good guy and I am so, so sorry for your loss.

**Kathy Blondin-Stone** - July 12 at 08:31 AM



“ Thank you for your kind words. Pat got a kick out of you! He liked your sense of humor.

**Joan Fitzgibbon** - July 16 at 10:43 PM

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“ Our heartfelt sympathies to Joan and all of Pat's family. Even though we befriended Pat after his diagnosis we were fortunate to bear witness to Pat's genuine kindness, gentle warmth, and joyous passions for the outdoors and its activities. Pat's constant smile and caring gaze always delivered a peaceful easy feeling among his company. We are grateful for Pat's friendship and will fondly remember him every we pass a rider on the TART. Peace & Love Bob and Faye Stoewsand

**ROBERT STOEWSAND** - June 23 at 11:22 AM

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“ Camille, Vince, Sonny & Nina DiFonzo purchased Lantern Bouquet for the family of Patrick "Pat" Michael Fitzgibbon.



**Send Flowers** - June 21 at 09:15 AM



“ Unfortunately, I really got to know Pat at the onset of his Alzheimer’s. I was always taken with his calm demeanor, ready smile and joy of life. Joan’s steadfast loyalty, positive attitude and rock solid determination to give Pat the best life possible were absolutely remarkable. Our thoughts, prayers and love always. Mike and Jaime Zamesnik

**Mike Zamesnik** - June 21 at 09:03 AM

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“ Pat was one of my favorite cousins. I am sorry that I am not able to attend his memorial service. I was an only child, and was always happy when my mom took me over to their house in Bullet Creek, to stay for a few hours or sometimes over night. I was thankful that he retired, moved to Traverse City, and continued working with and riding bikes.  
Joan, may God bring you comfort in Pat's passing, knowing that Jesus has prepared a place for him. You have been an example for us all by the excellent, loving care you gave Pat. Blessings, Dave and Debbie Campbell

**David Campbell** - June 20 at 06:10 PM

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“ I worked with Pat for many many years. never did I see him ever lose his temper. He was always kind and good to others. .Sorry to hear he has left this world. Carol Hyzer of Grayling Michigan

**carol hyzer** - June 20 at 07:56 AM

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“ Not sure if you remember me. We met at the TC Alzheimer's Support group. So sorry for your loss. You were a devoted companion to Pat. Please try to take some comfort in knowing that Pat is now free from the burdens of that terrible disease.

JoAnn Weirich

**JoAnn Weirich** - June 19 at 09:14 PM

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“ He was the bravest guy, when his situation was developing he faced it with humor and showed the best stuff. Having those retirement years snatched away from the two of you, Joan, showed how courageous you are also. A much admired couple, the Fitzgibbon's, and my Mom's favorite Joanie... she is up there welcoming with Patrick now.

**Howard Szaroletta** - June 19 at 03:39 PM

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“ Pat was my supervisor back when the agency was called FIA. He was a wonderful man who made a positive impact on me. My deepest condolences.  
- Michelle (Giltrop) Rodriguez

**Michelle** - June 19 at 07:36 AM

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“ Pat and I were worked together for years in Saginaw County. Pat was at home with every outdoor activity and we shared our appreciation for cross country skiing. One afternoon at the Corsair course near Tawas City, I asked Pat what he enjoyed about skiing. He said, " I love feeling my heart beat, hearing my breathing, and the crunch of the snow".

Pat joined a number of my friends who spent a weekend each year skiing in northern Michigan and Canada. He was so good at life "with the boys", he earned the moniker "Natural". Pat excelled at life. I will miss you as I have for the past several years. My best to you Joan, and to your family.

**James Stephan** - June 18 at 08:37 AM



“ Thank you, Jim, for the lively words.

**Joan Fitzgibbon** - June 19 at 10:26 AM

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“ So sorry for your loss. I worked with Pat in Children's Services...he was a good guy, I'll never forget that smile.

**Marti Stimpson** - June 17 at 02:26 PM

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“ I am not sure if you remember me, Joan, but I remember you as we shared together at the TC Alzheimers Support Group. My condolences to you and my admiration for the strength you displayed at the onset of Pat’s Alzheimers journey. Having been there and done that, I know it has been difficult for you as well as Pat. I just want you to know that life does go on, and while it will not be the same, it can still be good. Comfort and peace as you continue on your journey.

I am on Facebook if I can ever be of any help to you.

Sherry Schmalenberg Doerr

**Sherry (Schmalenberg) Doerr** - June 16 at 08:09 PM

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“ I’m sending thoughts and prayers to Joan and Pat’s family. I worked with Pat for many many years and enjoyed a few beers with him and others after work occasionally. He was a great coworker and a nice man.

**Patti Bolyard** - June 16 at 05:30 PM