



Patrick J. Mulvihill

May 9, 1952 - August 3, 2022

Patrick J. Mulvihill, 70, of Bourbonnais, Illinois, died Wednesday, August 3, 2022 in Kankakee.

Pat had an artist's soul in a blue-collar world. He was a scholar, writer, painter, singer, songwriter, guitarist and an acolyte of Bob Dylan and Neil Young. But his main paying job was in a factory.

Within months of seeing the Beatles on "The Ed Sullivan Show" when he was 11, he'd raised \$35 for his first electric guitar. His parents, Vernon and Mildred, a railroad worker and nurse, kicked in the other half.

Pat spent his life in and around Kankakee except for a short stint in college in Iowa, a few months after that in Denver and about a decade in Bloomington, Illinois.

He worked for 16 years on the assembly line at an A.O. Smith water heater plant. He remembered writing lyrics on the job. After work the second shift ended he and the rest of the Buzz Band played midnight rock and roll sets at the Kankakee bar Angie's.

Pat was laid off in the late 1980s, not long before the plant closed. But that created an opportunity nearly as life changing as hearing the Beatles: The company paid for him to go to college. He spent two years at Kankakee Community College before transferring to and then graduating from Illinois

State University at 40 with a degree in English. He studied religion and the poetry of Maria Rainer Rilke and won a creative writing award. Because of health problems, he wasn't able to work again.

Later in life, he sometimes described himself as a hermit. Except for a brief marriage in his 20s and a few years of sharing a home with his sister Lynn, he lived with only a procession of cats who loved only him: UB, Layla, Mugs, Fishes, Buddha, Mama Cat and Joe. He also had a well-worn Gibson acoustic guitar that had a personality of its own.

Despite a variety of struggles, including a lifetime as a White Sox fan and being unable to turn his head much for decades, he remained refreshingly unbitter, praising young musicians, artists and athletes and never giving "back in my day" rants. He often appreciated the genres of music he became familiar with blasting on car stereos in his mobile home park.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Mike Mulvihill; and sister Lynn Houston. He is survived by his nephew Geoff Mulvihill of New Jersey and his family, as well as close friends Dave and Janice Wilken of Bourbonnais.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, August 27, 2022 from 11am until the memorial service at 1pm at Jensen Funeral Home, Kankakee.

Memorials may be made to the wishes of the family.

Tribute Wall



“ *Patrick J. Mulvihill*

October 08, 2023 at 04:39 PM



“ *I have many wonderful memories of Pat. I pray he is at peace.*



Sara Crosswhite - August 13, 2022 at 10:26 PM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Patrick J. Mulvihill.*



August 08, 2022 at 04:34 PM



“ *Had the privilege of jamming with Pat. A gentle voice with a soul to match. You're in my heart where you've always been i love you*

patrick j martinez - August 08, 2022 at 02:41 PM

 Robert
Wilken

“ Robert Wilken lit a candle in memory of
Patrick J. Mulvihill



Robert Wilken - August 07, 2022 at 08:24 AM

 Robert
Wilken

“ I met Pat through my brother Dave Wilken and a friend Jim Kruse.
They all worked together at A.O. Smith.
Pat was one of the most easy going people I've ever known, even
when his health was not the best. He was quick to laugh and had a
great outlook on life.
Pat was a pretty good guitarist and vocalist. His vocals always
reminded me of Neil Young. I remember Pat, my brother Dave and
Jim sitting around jamming on guitars sometimes after they got off
work, sipping on a brew, maybe sharing a doobie and having a few
laughs...just enjoying life and their friendship. I think I even saw
The Buzz Band play a time or two at Angie's. Great memories.
Pat always had a great outlook on life. I don't think I ever remember
him not being upbeat and positive. The world could take a lesson
from his attitude and perspective on life. And it will be a little darker
without him in it. Rest in Peace Pat.....

Robert Wilken - August 07, 2022 at 01:43 AM

MB

“ Uncle Vernon, Aunt Mildred, Mike and Lyn will be there as you get
your wings. Soar with the angels PJ.

Madonna Mulvihill Brown - August 06, 2022 at 11:06 PM

LY

“ Good Times With Pat.....In High School & A.O. Smith.....RIP Old Friend

Larry Yoakum - August 06, 2022 at 08:20 PM

DW

“ I was with Pat and Dave at A O Smith's and remember the times. Rest In Peace Buddy. Sorry but going to miss your gig, will,be with my daughter out of town. RIP Moe Bob



Dwain - August 06, 2022 at 07:55 PM

RY

“ Rest In Peace Pat...no pain no more....

Rick yoakum - August 06, 2022 at 07:40 PM

TB

“ RIP my friend - Tom Brais



Tom Brais - August 06, 2022 at 06:18 PM

SL

“ Sharon Langevin lit a candle in memory of Patrick J. Mulvihill



Sharon Langevin - August 06, 2022 at 03:44 PM

SL

Many good times listening to Pat, Steve, Mike and Dave play! I miss those days! I'm so sorry for your loss. Love Sharon

Sharon Langevin - August 06, 2022 at 03:50 PM

KM

Those were definitely the good old days Sharon 😞 Pat had such a talent... he was so creative and kind. RIP Pat

karen Menard - August 22, 2022 at 12:12 AM

SA

“ It was Christmas time 1958. Little Patrick and his cousin Lance Sides, together belting out “you ain’t nothin but a hound dog” with their little guitars. Gyrating all over the living room. They were a twosome. What a show from 2 six year olds!

Susan Mulvihill Adame. - August 06, 2022 at 03:21 PM

DW

“ Dave Wilken lit a candle in memory of Patrick J. Mulvihill



Dave Wilken - August 06, 2022 at 01:06 PM

DW

“ I met Pat when we worked at A.O.Smith making water heaters. (1973) We became friends and have been on many adventures together. Pat, I, and a couple other friends played guitars and we used to get together after work (2nd shift) and play music late into the night! We use to call ourselves "The Buzz Band" .Really, we were Living Room Legends that no one had never heard of. Pat and I took a road trip to Colorado in the early 80's. Pat had a friend (Rick) that lived in the mountains by Breckenridge Colorado. We stayed with him for a few days. Rick took us down to meet some of his friends (In Breckenridge) where we all made music, ate, drank and made merry. We visited Colorado Springs, went to see The Royal Gorge, and visited Pikes Peak, and just drove through the beautiful Rocky Mountains. Colorado is one beautiful state! From there we went to Moab, Utah (Arches National Park) and camped there for a couple days! Best Vacation I have ever had!Pat, You and I have had some great adventures, and I will miss you and think of the good times often!.. Long ,may you run, my friend!

Dave Wilken - August 06, 2022 at 01:04 PM

JW

“ Rest in peace my friend. I will miss you.



Janice Wilken - August 06, 2022 at 11:36 AM

TA

“ I met Pat when I was quite young and we were married when we were quite young. He introduced me to a variety of music and I always appreciated his gift with the guitar and his writing abilities. Although it has been years since I've seen him, I do hope he rest in peace and is no longer in pain. God Bless the friends and family during this time of loss. Tammy McClure

Tammy - August 05, 2022 at 12:56 PM

GR

“ My sympathies to Pat's family. I remember Pat from school, he was a good guy , funny, smart and easygoing, RIP old friend.

Gerald Robbins - August 05, 2022 at 12:20 PM