



William Patrick Rutherford

February 14, 1970 - February 3, 2025

William Patrick Rutherford of Nashville passed away Monday, February 3, 2025 at Saint Thomas Midtown Hospital in Nashville. He was born on February 14, 1970 in Texas and was 54 years old.

Patrick was an artist with a keen eye for nature, friendship, and purpose. In his early years, he drew amazing pictures across a range of subjects that astounded his parents, one especially being the gigantic dinosaur skeleton in the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History – which he first saw in a magazine and then later in person, standing before it with wide eyes and absolute amazement. As an artist, his craft was imagination and seeing the details most overlooked; but not Patrick.

As an adult, that detail and artistry turned to cooking, and specifically baking. At 19, his father Bill, with great trepidation, left him on a curb in New York City to study at the prestigious Peter Kump's New York Cooking School. Cooking was a natural fit for Patrick because he and brother Ted had been cooking since they were young children.

Over his three years at culinary school, Patrick found his calling in the kitchen. Thus began his life's work. He studied French cuisine but, while among the ovens of Tom Cat Bakery in New York, Patrick's passion for bread and pastries emerged and his artistry and eye for detail allow him to soar. Patrick

poured himself into his work. After New York he worked as a chef at Peabody Hotel in Memphis and then at renowned Nashville establishments like Bread & Company, Bound'ry, Mad Platter, and most recently Red Phone Booth. Whether it was pencil and paper, bread dough, or a dish of sea scallops and asparagus with an orange beurre blanc, Patrick left an indelible mark everywhere he went.

In his younger years, Patrick loved nature and everything about it. Although he was mischievous – very mischievous, one would probably say – he found peace in exploring nature and everything about the outdoors. He loved climbing and doing dangerous things that scared his family and concerned his friends. And as for friends, Patrick was never found wanting. He offered camaraderie, deep care, and he selflessly shared his own experiences and wisdom to lift others out of dark places in their own lives. His family agrees that, if Patrick's special friends were to be listed by name, no justice could be done for fear of leaving many out.

Like Bill and Beth, Patrick loved history and he was always looking forward to his next traveling adventure, which would likely include a museum.

Patrick graduated from Giles County High School in 1988. Before Peter Kump's New York Cooking School, he studied at Martin Methodist College.

Patrick is survived by his loving parents William "Bill" and Beth Rutherford of Pulaski and brother Ted Rutherford of San Antonio, Texas. He will continue to be missed by his two nephews, Cameron and Jacob Rutherford of Texas, uncle Jim (Jennifer) Blackburn and aunt Georgann Blackburn, of Pulaski, cousins Knox (Stacey) Blackburn of Franklin and Meredith (Clay) Avent of Pulaski, great uncle Donald Rutherford of Topeka, Kansas and aunt Jeanette (Wesley) Hobbs and cousins Matt Rutherford (Amy) and Leann Rutherford, of San Angelo, Texas. Also surviving are natural half-siblings Carlee McEwin

Wadley of Fort Worth, Texas and Michael Walters of Amarillo, Texas, natural aunts Rocelia Garlick of Menard, Texas and Susan McEwin of Dallas, Texas, and step mother Betty Walters of Amarillo, Texas.

Patrick was preceded in death by maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. James Blackburn III and paternal grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Rutherford, uncle David Rutherford, and natural parents Forrest Walters and Catherine McEwin.

Patrick's family will receive friends and loved ones on Saturday, February 8th in the Margaret Butler Library of First Presbyterian Church of Pulaski from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. A 2:30 p.m. graveside service to follow at Maplewood Cemetery, conducted by Reverend Dr. Amy Stoker of First Presbyterian Church of Pulaski.

The family suggests memorial donations to the First Presbyterian Church of Pulaski, P. O. Box 174, 202 S. Second Street, Pulaski, Tennessee 38478 or to the Giles County Public Library, 122 S. Second Street, Pulaski, Tennessee 38478.

Bennett-May & Pierce Funeral Home and Crematory in charge of arrangements for William Patrick Rutherford.

Cemetery Details

Maplewood Cemetery

500 Ballentin Street
Pulaski, TN 38478

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 8. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM.

Margaret Butler Library Of First Presbyterian Church Of Pulaski

Graveside Memorial Service

FEB 8. 2:30 PM (CT)

Maplewood Cemetery
500 Ballentin Street
Pulaski, TN 38478

Tribute Wall

BD

“ *Bill and Beth, I just came across this was I'm shocked! I am so sorry for your loss! You are in my thoughts and prayers. God bless.*

Brenda Dean

Beaumont, Texas

Brenda Dean - November 06, 2025 at 02:19 AM

RK

“ *Mr. & Mrs. Rutherford and family, Robert and I are saddened to hear of Patrick's passing. May God and those who loved Patrick comfort you during this most difficult time.*

In Sympathy,

Robert and Rhonda Kelton

rhonda kelton - March 31, 2025 at 06:42 PM

JP

“ *Patrick was/is an incredibly empathetic soul. He was kind even when mad. You'll be missed my Brother. Much love and blessings.*

Jimmy Phillips - March 25, 2025 at 03:07 PM

AH

“ *Ashley And Abel Holley lit a candle in memory of William Patrick Rutherford*



Ashley and Abel Holley - February 16, 2025 at 12:08 PM

SC

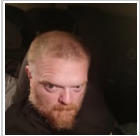
“ Immensely talented with a huge personality. So sorry for your loss.
God Bless,

Stewart Clay - February 11, 2025 at 11:04 PM

JC

“ As his obituary says, Patrick was a hell of a baker and a good guy with a big heart. I haven't seen him in years but he will be missed. I'm very sorry for your loss. God bless.

John Clay - February 11, 2025 at 10:46 PM



“ It's times like these that remind me of good people I've met in life. Sitting here reminiscing about the good times has me in tears because of the 20+ years I missed with Pat. Life takes us down many paths and so often we lose touch with the many amazing people we meet.

I'm so sorry for your loss

Jason Holland - February 09, 2025 at 07:51 AM

TS

I work with Pat I hope God goes easy on Him. We fall short of Gods Glory. Pat had a big heart Please God go easy on Patrick He a very rough start. His earth Father is very Decent Man.

Todd A Sternberg - February 12, 2025 at 03:15 PM

SW

“ I am so sorry to hear of the passing of Patrick. May God give you comfort during this difficult time!
Sue Ann Williamson

Sue Ann Williamson - February 08, 2025 at 05:43 PM

BH

“ I am so sorry for the loss of this family. I got to know Patrick for several years while at the Mad Platter and he helped me grow both in my skill and in my personality. Patrick was a huge beacon of light for me in some of my darkest years and I will never forget him. The world lost a beautiful jewel.



Bradley Hughes - February 08, 2025 at 02:48 PM

BF

“ May the Light of Our Great Saviour help you and your family through this time of sorrow! I'm so sorry for your loss! May God give you Peace!

Brenda Fann - February 07, 2025 at 07:06 PM



“ Rest well my friend. You shined like a diamond.

William Mcgarvey - February 07, 2025 at 05:13 PM

BC

“ Beth Creecy lit a candle in memory of William Patrick Rutherford



Beth Creecy - February 07, 2025 at 04:44 PM

EM

“ *Elizabeth Fry Maxwell lit a candle in memory of William Patrick Rutherford*



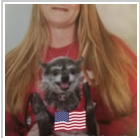
Elizabeth Fry Maxwell - February 07, 2025 at 11:00 AM

SM

“ *Sonya Mayes lit a candle in memory of William Patrick Rutherford*



Sonya Mayes - February 07, 2025 at 10:45 AM



“ *Kelli Tidwell lit a candle in memory of William Patrick Rutherford*



Kelli Tidwell - February 07, 2025 at 07:19 AM



“ *He introduced me to the Grateful Dead in high school, a wonderful artist, and so much more. He had the biggest heart! Fly high and rest easy Pat.*



Heather Lloyd - February 06, 2025 at 08:44 PM

TP

“ Beth and Bill we are so sorry for your loss. No parent should lose a child no matter how old. We will certainly keep you in our thoughts and prayers

tony and Linda Parsons - February 06, 2025 at 07:58 PM

TB

“ So sorry for your loss.

Toby Barrett - February 06, 2025 at 07:09 PM

KT

“ Kelly Torrence lit a candle in memory of William Patrick Rutherford



Kelly Torrence - February 06, 2025 at 06:51 PM

TM

“ Teri Mize lit a candle in memory of William Patrick Rutherford



Teri Mize - February 06, 2025 at 05:17 PM

SB

So sorry Love and Prayers.

Sara Bass - February 07, 2025 at 12:36 AM