



Allierose Patricia Galt Steves

November 5, 1927 - February 18, 2018

SAN ANTONIO, Texas – Allierose Patricia Galt Steves.

Extraordinary, special, intelligent, inspiring, charming, respectful, thoughtful, grateful, modest, determined, devoted, courageous, strong-willed, eternally optimistic – that’s how anyone who knew Patsy Steves would describe her.

Born on November 5, 1927 in Ardmore, Oklahoma to Edward Galt and Allierose Breeding Galt, she went to be with the Lord on February 18, 2018.

Patsy moved from Oklahoma to San Antonio with her family at the age of ten. She attended Saint Mary’s Hall and graduated from Alamo Heights High School. She received degrees in Philosophy and English Literature from the University of Texas in Austin, and even found time to enjoy life with her Pi Beta Phi sisters.

Being the brilliant woman that she was, Patsy found herself surrounded with San Antonio Academy men. Patsy was married to the love of her life, the late Marshall Terrell Steves, Sr., for 52 years, and together they raised three devoted sons: Marshall, Edward and Sam, in whom she instilled her core values of being respectful, polite, generous, hard-working and having unwavering optimism.

She had an innate ability to get people to listen to the words she spoke and had an excessive habit of only speaking with a purpose. As she would frequently say, in hopes of inspiring those that she loved of their responsibility in the world, “What are you going to do to change my world and make it better?”

Her reputation for hospitality and unique ability to bring together people of talent to make exciting things happen, was justly earned during the preparation for the 1968 World’s Fair. During HemisFair ’68, she hosted numerous ambassadors from all around the world, and her husband, Marshall, served as President of the Fair.

Patsy developed a close friendship with Lady Bird Johnson, with whom she worked closely with to create the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, of which she became Charter President. Patsy’s work with Texas wildflowers is apparent every Spring. As a Founder and President of the National Wildflower Research Center, she was instrumental in the planting of wildflowers along Texas highways, resulting not only in the beautiful scenery, but also in savings of water and fertilizers by planting “God’s way.”

She was the Founding President of the Latin American Folk Art museum wing at the San Antonio Museum of Art and has donated her extensive Folk Art Library, the result of more than 50 years of collecting. For the museum she was a catalyst in bringing in the Robert K. Winn and Nelson A. Rockefeller art collections, and was a Founder of the museum fundraiser, Bazar Sabado.

Patsy was also one of the Founding Board Members of the San Antonio Botanical Society and played a founding role in the Texas Folklife Festival, for which she was awarded the Institute of Texan Cultures annual award.

In 1986 she was named Volunteer Extraordinaire by the Junior League of San

Antonio and received the Key to the Arts Award from the Ariel House for her generosity, time and patronage. In 2005, she was awarded the San Antonio Motherhood Lifetime Achievement Award by San Antonio Can High School.

In between her commitments to various philanthropic projects, including restoring a number of historically significant buildings, she served as a Board Member of: Junior League of San Antonio, Symphony Society, Witte Museum, San Antonio Conservation Society, San Antonio Botanical Gardens, San Antonio Museum of Art, Bat Conservation International, Villa Finale and HemisFair Conservancy.

Patsy was an avid reader of all genres and kept a weekly updated collection of new and fascinating books on her living room coffee table for her guests to take home and read. She was a woman who took great pride in staying current with both local and world affairs. So, it was not surprising that in 2001, she was honored by the World Affairs Council as its Citizen of the Year, and in 2015 was awarded the W.T. Bondurant, Sr. Distinguished Humanitarian Award by the San Antonio Academy Alumni Council.

She remained an active participant as Chairwoman of the Board of her family-owned company, Steves and Sons. The company, now in its 152nd year is the oldest building materials organization in the United States that remains under the same continuous family ownership and management. When asked about her never-ending passion to continue oversight of her company, she would often tell people: “have fun working and you will never have to work.”

While the list of national and local organizations, projects and Boards on which she has served, is truly remarkable, her most important work, and the thing that she was most proud of, was her family.

Patsy was preceded in death by her sister, Betty Jane Galt Brown and by her granddaughter-in-law, Meredith Bowers Steves.

Patsy is survived by her sister, Gloria Galt, her sons, Marshall Terrell Steves Jr., Edward Galt Steves, Sam Bell Steves II; their wives: Jane Williams Steves, Nancy Marchbanks Steves and Sarah Hause Steves. She leaves behind her beloved grandchildren: Lissa Galt Steves Allen, her husband, Paul Gregory Allen, Marshall Terrell Steves III, Gloria Galt Steves Dilley, her husband, Miguel Evan Dilley, Sarah Elizabeth Steves, Sam Bell Steves III, his wife, Megan Lynn Steves, and Lida Wilhelmina Emilia Steves, and her fiancé, Charles S. Plummer III. She also leaves behind six truly cherished great-grandchildren: Charlotte Elizabeth Allen, Penelope Galt Allen, Sam Bell Steves IV, Edward Galt Steves Dilley, Marshall Terrell Steves IV and Michael Galt Steves. Her grandniece, Brice Galt Barry Russian, her husband, Laurence Kachig Russian, and their two children, Lily Galt Russian, Townes Henry Russian, along with her grandnephew, Andrew Earl Barry.

Additionally, she is survived by her goddaughter, Nancy Cunningham Watson, her husband Patrick Boisseau Watson, Jr. and their three children, Hallie Nixon Watson, Patrick Boisseau Watson III, and Williams Cunningham Watson, as well as Nan's sister, Susan Cunningham Lewis, her husband, Steven C. Lewis, their children, Kenneth S. Adams IV, Barclay C. Adams and R. Spencer Lewis II.

Patsy stood out as a woman who was deeply concerned about improving the world around her. She was truly one-of-a-kind. There was absolutely no one quite like her and never will be again. She was loved and garnered respect by all who knew her. To most she was Mrs. Steves or Patsy, but to her family, she was our Allie. Allie- please know that you succeeded in changing our world and making it a better place – you will forever be missed.

When Allie lost the love of her life, she said: "Marshall went to sleep in Rome and woke up in Heaven." On Sunday, Allie went to sleep in San Antonio and woke up in Marshall's arms.

Serving as pallbearers are: Barclay Cunningham Adams, Kenneth Stanley Adams IV, Paul Gregory Allen, Miguel Evan Dilley, Richard Spencer Lewis II, Charles S. Plummer III, Marshall Terrell Steves III, Sam Bell Steves III, Patrick Boisseau Watson III and Williams Cunningham Watson.

Serving as honorary pallbearers are: Donald Alexander, Andrew E. Barry, Christopher J. Carson, A. Baker Duncan, Christopher Goldsbury, Jr., H. Burt Hause, Luci Johnson, Christopher L. Kopecky, Edward K. Kopplow, Rosemary E. Kowalski, Steven C. Lewis, Clark R. Mandigo II, Peggy P. Mays, Marion Oettinger, Jr., Laurence Russian, Bernardo F. Sada, Manuel F. Sada, John T. Steen, Jr., Rolly R. Steen, Albert Steves V, Frank M. Steves, John P. Steves, Walter E. Steves, Patrick H. Swearingen, Jr., Robert D. Tips and Patrick B. Watson, Jr.

The family would be remiss not to recognize and thank Will McLauren, Annie Thompson, Anne Day, Howdy Garcia, Lupe Zapata, Manuela Lynton, and Kelly Ables, for their care and devotion over many years.

Patsy was a devoted member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, where a celebration of her life will be held at 2:00pm on Thursday, February 22, 2018.

Graveside service will be held at 10:00am, Thursday, February 22, 2018 at the Steves Family Cemetery in Comfort, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the San Antonio Museum of Art for the endowment for the Curator for Latin American Art, the HemisFair Conservancy, the San Antonio Botanical Gardens or Villa Finale.

Cemetery Details

Steves Family Cemetery

Comfort, TX

Previous Events

Graveside Service

FEB 22. 10:00 AM (CT)

Steves Family Cemetery
Comfort, TX

Memorial Service

FEB 22. 2:00 PM (CT)

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
315 E. Pecan
San Antonio, TX 78205

Tribute Wall

BA

“ *Bess & Tyler Abell send the family of Patsy Steves our deepest sympathy and a small donation in Patsy's memory to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.*

Bess Abell - March 01, 2018 at 01:45 PM

TA

“ *Texans Can Academies purchased the Fruit Abounds for the family of Allierose Patricia Galt Steves.*



Texans Can Academies - February 27, 2018 at 12:05 PM

JK

“ *My condolences to the Steve's Family. I am heartbroken. I was hoping to visit with this wonderful, gracious lady again. I met her at my dentist office waiting area and, after introducing myself and a brief visit, autographed one of my books for her. She was thrilled, especially when she saw it was dedicated to her good friend, Lila Cockrell. She called me several times. Our loss is heavens gain.*

Joan Korte - February 24, 2018 at 01:07 AM

JK

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Joan Korte - February 23, 2018 at 11:54 PM

CR

“ *My condolences to the Steve's family. She was a beautiful person with such a grand heart. I will always remember how she would come into the Western Broiler Cafe and make sure that Mr. Steve's would stick to his diet and not have dessert. I have so many beautiful memories with the Steve's family at the cafe . She will truly be missed!! So I offer my condolences and prayers to the family from Carmen who waited on all of the family at the Western Broiler Cafe for many years.*

Carmen Ramirez - February 23, 2018 at 03:22 AM

MM

“ *Sending love to the gracious and supportive wife of the President of Hemisfair 1968, who extended her kindness to my Dad, the Vice President. She was lovely and supportive and faithful and much loved. Thank you, Lord, for sharing her with us and Rest In Peace Beautiful Soul. Myfe Moore*

myfe moore - February 22, 2018 at 06:25 PM

JA

“ *Patsy was one of our greatest supporters of ITC and the Texas Folklife Festival. As a member of our Festival Steering committee, she supported me through many challenges and I will never forget her kindness and sense of fairness, her great sense of humor and her compassion. She was an amazing woman and will be missed by her many legions of friends.*

Jo Ann Andera

Jo Ann Andera - February 22, 2018 at 07:54 AM

TA

“ *The Anciras purchased the Guiding Light Bouquet for the family of Allierose Patricia Galt Steves.*



The Anciras - February 21, 2018 at 07:41 PM

LO

“ *My thoughts and prayers to the family of Patsy Steves ,a wonderful woman to know.*

I was associated with her in "Friends of Folk Art" and "Bazaar Sabado" , so many fond memories!

Lani Ord

Lani Ord - February 21, 2018 at 05:35 PM

MW

“ *Mike & Brenda Wamsley purchased the Garden of Memories for the family of Allierose Patricia Galt Steves.*



Mike & Brenda Wamsley - February 21, 2018 at 04:01 PM

SP

“ *Marshall, Edward, Sam Bell and Families,*

My heartfelt condolences on the loss of your family's amazing matriarch! She embodied the illustration of a true southern belle. A great mother, grandmother and example to all of us of grace and class. We will all miss her exhibiting how to be the best we can be!

Steve Pritchard - February 21, 2018 at 12:02 PM

MG

“ *Mark And TrisAnn Garboski lit a candle in memory of Allierose Patricia Galt Steves*



Mark and TrisAnn Garboski - February 21, 2018 at 09:42 AM

MG

Please accept our thoughts and prayers for the entire Steves family. - Mark and TrisAnn Garboski

Mark and TrisAnn Garboski - February 21, 2018 at 09:44 AM

JS

Marshall Jr., Edward and Sam we are so saddened to hear of your mothers passing and wish to extend our sincere condolences to you and all the Steves family. Patsy, a truly Grand Lady, will be sorely missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Jimmy and Rae Stewart

Jimmy Stewart - February 21, 2018 at 02:21 PM

JM

Dear Marshall, Edward and Sam; As a young boy growing up with my friend, Marshall, I came to know your Mom during the many visits to your house. I came to believe, as I still do, that the two most elegant, classiest women in San Antonio, were (and are) your Mom and mine (Helen Miller). My Mom passed away almost a year to the day before your Mom. If we believe in Heaven (or not), I choose to smile when knowing the two are shining stars in the universe.

Jay Miller - February 22, 2018 at 11:05 AM

RG

“*Thoughts and prayers with all. So appreciated Patsy’s political activism and involvement over the years. Gracious hostess and willingness to help make a difference truly had an impact on countless campaigns. She truly leaves this world a better place.*”

Reagan Greer - February 21, 2018 at 08:03 AM