

Patricia Kaye Stressman
(Dec 14, 1945 – Mar 20, 2025)

By Heidi Tice



Patricia Stressman was born in Muskegon Michigan on December 14, 1945, to John E & Vonia J (Strait) Rennells. She was the first of eight children for John & Vonia and highly thought of by her younger siblings. She met her soon to be husband in the 11th grade. Patricia married Russell K Stressman on July 18, 1964, and recently celebrated their Sixtieth wedding Anniversary. Russ & Pat have made Fruitport their home for the last Sixty years. They raised four children together at their home on Carr Rd in Fruitport. During the construction of their new home, Pat would walk from Russ’s mothers’ home (where they lived at the time) on Judson rd. pushing a baby buggy with her three young children in it the 12 miles to Carr Rd. to help with the plumping and electrical each day. Pat held several jobs throughout her life. She was Secretary for several Fruitport Community Schools Administrators to include the Late Gene Randel, & Dr. Dan Bird. She was an exceptional secretary. She could type 120 words a minute with 98% accuracy. She would have to stop with the older electric typewriters and wait for it to catch up, she really excelled when computers came along. She could take dictation in Gregg shorthand or simple type as quickly as you were speaking. After leaving Fruitport Schools she worked as an office manager. Pat was respected and admired at the cable company. Every year at Christmas time she would bake cookies for the staff. Her chocolate chip cookies became legendary at work and at her church, no one could figure out how they tasted so good. Her children and Grandchildren have tried to recreate them, and they are close, but not quite there. Twenty years and 3 name changes later she retired from Comcast. Recently she attended a staff reunion for the cable company, they were disappointed when she showed up without cookies in hand. She thought it would be rude to bring them into a nice restaurant.

Pat was a lifelong member of Fruitport Community Church. As a child, she attended the church then named Fruitport Congregational Church, on the corner of Park & 6th in the Village of Fruitport. Many times, she would walk to church on her own so she could sing in the choir. Russell’s mother Maudie was the choir director and told Russ that he needed to marry Patricia because he would never find another person better than her. When the new church was built on the corner of Park & 8th the name changed to Fruitport Congregational UCC. Russ & Pat were one of the first couples to be married at the newly built church. Pat has been the secretary, choir director, children’s church coordinator, VBS teacher and any other task the church has needed throughout the years. Her group at vacation bible school was the youngest group. You would think that was because they were the easiest and wouldn’t require as many projects. She would completely bury that theory. Her group painted, colored, used glue and scissors and made projects that the older groups were always jealous about. Her thought process was children can accomplish anything so long as you are willing to take the time to teach and show them how. She also never had an attitude problem with the young ones, when asked how she handled that she would respond I just keep them too busy to make trouble.

Patricia had a servant’s heart; she was on the Fruitport Community School’s Board of Education for more than 25 years. She was proud to have given all four of her children and many of her Grandchildren their diplomas at their graduations. She participated in Woman’s Fellowship with her church and is the only person with dual membership in both the

Fruitport Lionesses and the Fruitport Lions Club. Russ and Pat through the years have sponsored nine exchange students in their home. They both also participated in Youth for Christ and made several mission trips as chaperons. Pat knew children were our future and wanted to take an active role in mentoring a life that child could be proud of.

Pat was determined to become a part of the Fruitport Lionesses and Fruitport Lions Clubs because her grandfather was a charter member & her father was a member. In 2010 she was proud to help install her daughter Heidi as the fourth generation of her family into the Fruitport Lions Club. She has participated in multiple events in her years of Lionism, as well as held many roles, to include Club President twice. In 2017, Russ & Pat were Fruitport Old Fashioned Days King & Queen. She was proud to accept the honor but wanted to keep the event an Old-Fashioned experience. Instead of riding in Lion Jim Feldt’s beautiful convertible, the couple lead the parade riding in a horse drawn buggy wearing clothes representing the late 1800’s.

Pat was an organizer. She worked part time for Cooperating Churches and organized food trucks throughout Muskegon County. She was extremely proficient in solving problems and facilitating tasks. She found a need, decided how to meet that need and organized the people and steps to fill that need. Those skills led her to help groups all throughout the area which also resulted in a nomination to be a woman of accomplishment in 2012, an honor she felt proud of and humbled by. She didn’t need to live in the limelight she was more than happy to accept recognition, say thank you and fade back into the crowd, so she could move on to the next event.



Patricia Stressman will be missed by her extensive family, her husband, children, grandchildren, siblings, aunt, cousins, nieces and nephews. She will also be missed by her other families, Fruitport Lionesses, Fruitport Lions, Lions District 11C1, Fruitport Community Church and Fruitport Community Schools.

Gabrielle Miller’s Post on her 4-H Club
- 4/26/25

Today did not disappoint!
My heart was so full when Dr. Emmeline Wachter surprised me with a visit and cheered us on! She holds a pretty special place in my heart.

Makaya & Mantis had double firsts, in pleasure & Equitation, two seconds in discipline rail (little math bobble)

Addie & Nelly did great in western pleasure 2 & 5, horsemanship 6 & 5.

Discipline rail Old Nelly had some ants in her pants and couldn’t stand quiet when asked.

Lilly & Bella again had a rocking day 3 & 4 in pleasure, 4 & 5 in horsemanship, & double first in discipline rail!!

Ella & Sassy made me scream out loud! 1st & 3rd in western pleasure out of 16, and 5 & 7 in horsemanship on a tough pattern. Strong strong rides for this team!

Ruth & Sassy 2,2 in pleasure, 3 & 4 in horsemanship, 7 & 8 in discipline rail (bathing is hard)

Susan rested her back for tomorrow’s English day, but cheered us on!

Highlight was Ella Mahoney killed it in the blow up ball competition beating out 16 people to round out the night!



I PAY MORE!

I WANT YOUR UNWANTED...

Junk Cars • Wrecks
Abandoned Cars,
Trucks, Vans, & SUV's

• USED AUTO PARTS •
Most Parts Come With Warranty

Call Doug | 231-343-3388

FREE TOWING
Flatbed or
Wrecker!

TRI-CITIES HISTORICAL

MUSEUM

EST. 1959

Open **Tuesday through Friday** from
10a.m. to 5p.m., and 12-5 p.m.
Saturdays and Sundays.
Free Admission!

VFW Post 3734

5201 Airline Rd.

- *Meets 1st Monday at 7:30pm*
For info. call Max at 865-3238
- *Auxiliary meets at 7:00pm*
For info. call Candis Sadowski at 773-7303
- **Memorial Service at Pinehill Cemetery**
at 11:00am May 27th, 2024



BE A PAWS DOG VOLUNTEER


We depend on volunteers to house and raise the special dogs that will enhance the quality of life for a person with a disability. Our PAWS Dog Volunteers ensure every PAWS Dog is born and raised in a caring home.

A PAWS Puppy Raiser cares for a puppy in their home, teaches basic obedience, socializes and exposes him to public environments. PAWS puppies live with their Raisers from about 8 weeks until 12-14 months old when they return to us for formal training.

A PAWS Breeding Host Home trains and cares for a PAWS Mama or Papa Dog and makes them available to PAWS during breeding times. Families who host Mama Dogs may also assist with whelping and raising litters until the puppies are 8 weeks old.

We need loving families like yours to help raise our PAWS Dogs. Will you help?

FOR MORE INFORMATION
pawswithacause.org/volunteer



Paws With A Cause®
4646 South Division
Wayland, MI 49348
616-877-7297
pawswithacause.org

