



## Jude Thaddeus James Patton

June 28, 1944 - January 10, 2025

Jude Thaddeus James Patton of Lakewood, Ohio, affectionately known by many nicknames—Thad, Thaddude, the General, T, Tashi, Tad, Papa, Pop, and Daddious—passed away peacefully midday Friday, January 10, at the age of 80. He was surrounded by his family, the people he loved unconditionally.

Thad is survived by his two daughters, Julie Patton (Mike) and Colleen Harris (David); his grandchildren, Reilly Patton, Jack Patton, and Connor Jane; and his beloved dog and best buddy, Franklin.

Born to Margaret Gildea and Michael Patton, Thad grew up on Edgecliff Avenue in Cleveland, Ohio, alongside his two brothers, Mark (Mary) and the late Michael, and his two sisters, Peggy Brandt (Jerry) and Mary Del Heron (Michael). From an early age, Thad's wit, compassion, and principles set him apart—qualities that defined his life and inspired all who knew him.

A proud veteran, Thad served in the U.S. Navy during the Cuban Missile Crisis, demonstrating courage and a deep sense of duty to his country. Following his service, he pursued higher education, earning the equivalent of a master's degree at Kent State University. Education became Thad's lifelong calling, a way to connect deeply with his children and inspire others.

For over 30 years, Thad taught industrial arts, instilling a passion for the

trades in generations of students. His classroom was a sanctuary filled with laughter, wisdom, and encouragement. Beyond the classroom, Thad's devotion extended into his faith and community. A devout Catholic, he served through the Stephen Ministry, taught citizenship classes, and coached high school hockey, as well as his daughters' softball and volleyball teams. Whether in church, on the ice, on the field, or in the classroom, Thad embodied deep faith, compassion, and a tireless dedication to others.

Thad's adventurous spirit led him across the globe and beyond the ordinary. He explored European museums, slept under the stars on Hawaiian beaches, jumped off bridges and out of airplanes, and rode his motorcycle across the United States. His zest for life was matched only by his passion for culture, history, art, and music. Known as a "walking encyclopedia", Thad's knowledge and love of learning enriched every conversation, making him a storyteller and historian for all who listened.

Thad was a rare soul—thoughtful and unafraid to laugh (or sneeze) loudly, think deeply, or live authentically. Thad's memory will forever be a source of strength and inspiration. His family takes comfort in knowing that his spirit, curiosity, and love will echo through their lives for generations to come.

Thad requested NO flowers please. If you are so inclined to donate, please consider making a donation in his name to North Coast Health or St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Peace.

A gathering will take place at 10:00 am Saturday, January 18, 2025 followed by a Mass at 11:00 am celebrating his life at Blessed Trinity Catholic Church 14040 Puritas Ave, Cleveland, OH 44135

# Previous Events

## Gathering

JAN 18. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Blessed Trinity Catholic Church  
14040 Puritas Ave  
Cleveland, OH 44135

## Memorial Mass

JAN 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

Blessed Trinity Catholic Church  
14040 Puritas Ave  
Cleveland, OH 44135

# Tribute Wall

WC

“ *Thaddeus was a great conversation partner. We would meet at the Black Bird Bakery for coffee or walk along the Rocky River in the Metro Park vigorously discussing religion or politics. He was challenging yet respectful of other opinions. He loved his daughters and grandchildren and his friends. It was a privilege to be a friend of Thad's.* Warren Campbell-Gaston

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**Warren Campbell-Gaston** - January 14, 2025 at 06:14 PM

DO

“ *So sorry to hear of the passing of Thaddeus. He was a great neighbor and will be missed along with his buddy Franklin. Prayers to his family.*

*Don and Tracy*

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**don** - January 14, 2025 at 04:54 PM



“ *You raised two amazing daughters and impacted your grandson and two granddaughters more than you could ever know. There are not enough words to express the grief we all feel and happiness knowing you truly lived a full and happy life. Rest easy "Papa" I'll do my best to watch over the clan and make you proud.*

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**D** - January 14, 2025 at 04:01 PM

ME

“ Prayers and thoughts to the family.



Melicent - January 14, 2025 at 03:57 PM

SH

“ He was the best. Sending love to you all.  
Shauna and Chris



Shauna - January 14, 2025 at 02:47 PM

EH

Aww, uncle T looks so happy with his favorite girls! Love and prayers,  
Erin

Erin d heron - January 14, 2025 at 03:00 PM

RE

“ i love you more than words could ever say. everything i do is to  
make you proud. -SP4E



Reilly - January 14, 2025 at 01:32 PM

JP

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



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**Julie Patton** - January 14, 2025 at 01:23 PM

RE

*everyone needs a papa hug*

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**Reilly** - January 14, 2025 at 07:31 PM