



Patrick "Paddy" "Pa Pa" E. LaFreniere, age 79 of Manistee, Michigan, died Wednesday, January 8, 2014 at his home unexpectedly.

He was born on January 18, 1934 on Beaver Island, Michigan son of the late Patrick W. & Elizabeth (Floyd) LaFreniere. Patrick married Marcia Platt on February 9, 1989 in Manistee, Michigan. He started his sailing career with his father as a wheelsman on his father's boat in route from Beaver Island to the mainland. Pat

started his career on the Great Lake in 1951 aboard the Tug Williams, Corp of Engineers, City of Milwaukee, Grand Trunk Railroad Car Ferry, in 1952 the Steamer SS L.E. Block, 620' Inland Steel, 1953 Motor Vessel E.J. Block, 550' Inland Steel, in 1955 he served our country in the U.S. Army Air Force as a heavy equipment operator building highways in France up until 1957 when he was discharged and continued his career on the Great Lakes aboard the Steamer Wilfred Sykes, 676' 7000 HP Inland Steel, 1960 the Car Ferry Ludington, Car Ferry Badger and Car Ferry City of Midland, Ann Arbor Car Ferry City of Milwaukee, Ann Arbor Car Ferry Viking, 1989 Self Un-loader Steamer Wilfred Sykes, 676' Inland Steel, 1990's Motor Vessel Self Un-loader Joe Block, 729 7000 HP, Inland Steel, Adam E. Cornelius, diesel Self Un-loader, 680', Chartered for Inland Steel and Joe Block, retiring in 2000. In 2001 the Car Ferry Badger and City of Midland, 2004 – 2005 three new Stanton Island Car Ferry deliveries, 2006 – 2010 the Car Ferry Badger and in 2009 Coast Guard Cutter/Buoy Tender Acacia, which he wheeled from Chicago to Manistee. Pat had a deep love for the water.

He is survived by his loving wife of almost 25 years, Marcia A. LaFreniere of Manistee, MI, and her three daughters & two sons-in-law, Kimberly & Daniel Bolles and their children, Delaney & Alexis all of Muskegon, MI, Kendra Nowak and Trisha Wyman both of Elkhart, IN, Kristen & Darin Sytek and their children Caden & Cohen all of Twin Lake, MI; his daughter, Maria (Ronald) Bennett and her family; one grandson, Patrick & Missi LaFreniere and their children, Madison & Skylar all of Jenison, MI; his daughter-in-law Cindy and Doug Miller of Belding, MI, his adopted daughter Lynn Herald of Cadillac, MI, one sister, Jean LaFreniere of Ionia, MI. Numerous nieces and nephews also survive him, as well as his special companion "Tigger". Many special friends also survive him.

Pat was preceded in death by his son, Patrick E. LaFreniere, three sisters, Mary Minor, Margaret Ann Polhemus and Isabelle LaFreniere and two brothers, Joseph & John (Beaver John) LaFreniere.

Mass from The Order of Christian Funerals will be celebrated Tuesday, January 14, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Mary of Mount Carmel Shrine Church in Manistee, with Reverend John McCracken celebrant. Burial will follow at Mt. Carmel Cemetery also in Manistee.

Relatives and friends will pray the Evening Vigil Service at 8:00 p.m. at the Herbert Funeral Home in Manistee, on Monday, January 13, 2014 where friends may begin calling at the funeral home on Monday after 2:00 p.m. The family will be at the funeral home on Monday afternoon from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. to receive friends.

A memorial has been established in Pat's name for Manistee Catholic Central Schools and the City of Milwaukee. Envelopes will be available at the funeral home.

The Herbert Funeral Home of Manistee is in charge of funeral arrangements.