

# PAT MCCCHESNEY

April 2, 2010

*"God blessed us all with Pat. Now He will be blessed with her presence."*

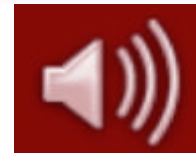
**John Corbelli**

*"Surely the angles have been preparing the way for God has set aside a special place for you. All of heaven will rejoice as you arrival."*

**Laurel Iversen**



## EULOGY by Joe Sharpless



**Vice President Emeritus, USA Volleyball**

Patricia Ann Murray McChesney was born in Wichita Falls, Texas in 1928. She grew up in the Lone Star State, attended Byers High School and Hardin Simmons University, where she majored in Physical Education. I knew Pat through our mutual love of volleyball and first met her in the late 1960's at a US Open Volleyball Championships somewhere.

We had a saying in volleyball, that although we traveled a lot, all we ever saw was the hotel,

the gym and our friends. The places were a blur. Few were the volleyball aficionados who could not recite the name of the city where the Nationals were held in response to a year.....1967 – Oh! that was Detroit, or 1980..I remember, Arlington, Texas, and on and on it went. Every year was reunion. New friends became old friends, who became dear friends. Many a volleyball player or official can count as many as 20 or 30 people, or even more, who they have known for 20 or more years.

What a great family we have!! The equation changes as we get older and we begin to lose these dear friends who have yielded to chronology. Pat was one of these persons in my life, but she was different. She was a little more special than the rest.

Let me digress. Pat was an avid volleyball player, coach and teacher. Her relationship with volleyball spanned more than 60 years. She started playing some form of volleyball in her elementary school years.

In high school she played all four years in three sports and won District Championships and All-District accolades. In addition she was captain of her volleyball team for two years and won the State Tennis Championship in her Senior Year.

While Pat was in college, very few women's intercollegiate sports were offered. This was long before Title IX. Yet she participated in volleyball with women's and girls' rules of eight or nine on a side with two hits allowed per person. She served 15 aces in a row in her first match.

By 1946, when the servicemen returned from World War II (The BIG ONE, as it is often referred to now), men's rules were used in mixed intramurals, including overhand serving, setting and spiking. Pat then taught intramural teams the overhand serve, setting and spiking skills. She taught volleyball sessions in Coaching Girls' Team Sports, and won the Border Conference Championship in volleyball and badminton, both singles and doubles. Also during her college career, she won the badminton intramurals in singles, doubles and mixed doubles, and (PHEW!) was a student instructor her junior and senior years in badminton. During the summer months she was a tennis instructor.

During her senior year at Hardin Simmons, Pat was a student teacher for eighth and ninth grade students for physical education. She staged the first ever Junior High School Tournament with other Junior High Schools, and her team came out on top. I think she hired the officials.

After graduation, Pat became a High School Teacher and coach at Coleman High School in 1949. She proposed and held the first District Tournament for volleyball and tennis. During her

*"We are so thankful God put Pat in our lives. She has left her mark in our heart and we are more because of it. She will always be special to each of us."*

Ruth N. Nelson



third year coaching she took her volleyball team to the Big Spring High School Volleyball Tournament, where two local teams put on exhibition matches of the basic skills of the game. Eventually, it became the biggest tournament in the State. In addition to coaching, Pat also conducted clinics and workshops for players, coaches and officials at numerous high schools, colleges and YMCA's around Texas.

In 1969, with two high school coaches, she planned and conducted the first Texas High School Girls' Volleyball Coaching School and All-Star Game in Arlington.

Pat also taught mini-volleyball and held the first tournament in the United States in the sport at the Dallas YMCA Thanksgiving Tournament. She also helped to write the Plano Sports Authority bylaws and rules for the boys and girls sports ages 8-16. The Spring Valley Athletic Association (Richardson and North Dallas) used these to start volleyball for girls 9-15 years of age. You could say she was a pioneer in the field of youth volleyball.

Pat first joined the United States Volleyball Association in 1959 in San Antonio and played in her first National Championship in Dallas, in 1960. She was officially hooked.

*Pat and Howard have been 2 of the most inspirational people in our lives. The friendship, love, understanding, and care for, not only us, but all of the community of volleyball is unsurpassed.*

Steve and Tammy Robb





During her USVBA career, she was a coach and a player; she served as the chair of the Girl's and Women's Sports Committee. She was elected to the USVBA Board of Directors for several terms. She was a Trustee on the United States Volleyball Education Foundation. She served several years as the secretary to the Foundation. She assisted several USVBA Secretary's, me included, with the registration and details of the Annual Delegate Assembly. She served tenure on the Rules and Collegiate Committees. She was a member of the Women's Volleyball Olympic Games Committee.

She was both the official and unofficial hostess of many volleyball gatherings in Texas and at the home she and her husband Howard shared. I recall very vividly in the late 1970's, when we were holding the mid-year meeting of the Regional Commissioner in Dallas. I was serving as the National Commissioner of Regions at the time. When Pat found out our plans, she invited all of the Commissioners to her house for a bodacious Texas Tequila party. She invited some of her neighbors and special friends. It was during the time the Regional Commissioners voted to make her an Honorary Regional Commissioner, the only person to have ever received this distinctive honor. Many a Commissioner was driven back to the hotel and poured into their beds.

In addition to winning Championships and All-Tournament honors at every level she played in, she was honored by USA Volleyball as Leader-In-Volleyball, and with their highest award, the Harold T. Frierhood, "FRIER" Award. This is the ultimate recognition in the organization. She was inducted into the



*"If we were to take your smiles, and connect them together, to everyone's lives who you have touched, then we would have a "smile-chain" that would circle the world. This is the lovable volleyball family you have created for us all."*

**Rose and Ken Rahn**

*"Pat, my freind for over 40 years, was an even better friend to volleyball for almost her entire life. She truly was the Grande Dame of volleyball, playing, coaching, refereeing, serving on any and all committees. She ruly loved volleyball."*

**Dot Tittle**

YMCA Hall of Fame, the first woman to be so honored.

For many years, a highlight of my return to the Nationals and the Annual Meeting was lunch with Pat and Howard. No matter how tired, or how discouraged, Pat had a way to make you feel great and to work a smile out of you. She was the epitome of energy and enthusiasm.

During her last days, a mutual friend, Ruth Nelson visited her frequently, and was the conduit between Pat and her many volleyball friends. She hooked us up on Skype and I was able to visit with Pat electronically and briefly rekindle our very special friendship, if only for a few minutes.

Gone but not forgotten, Pat will live forever in my heart. I consider myself not

only lucky to have known her, but fortunate to have been her friend. The only thing I never forgave her for was on a promise that she would get me Sammy Baugh's autograph. I was a long time Washington Redskin fan, and "Slingshot Sammy" was a boyhood idol. He died before she could make it happen. Pat, now, I forgive you.

Pat was a friend to all she knew; she was a loyal Cowboys fan; she was a doer. When she had a vision she found a plan to make it work. Pat even dug one of Smitty Duke's spikes and blocked him. Beyond belief, she was rich with the many friends made over her lifetime. She is already missed.

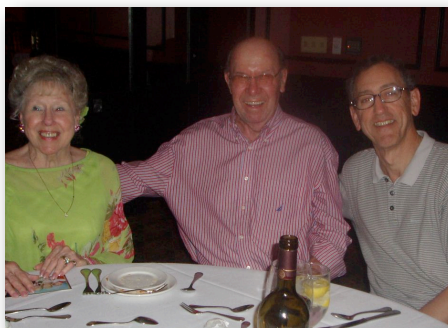
***Pat, you are home now, and without pain. May you rest in peace.***

## Pat, Patty or Mrs. Mac

**By Doug P. Beal, CEO USA Volleyball**

We have lost a very special and dear friend. Those of us privileged to know Pat knew she simply was one of a kind, who loved people and VB people most of all. She gave much more than anyone could expect and embodied so much of what's good, not just of our sport, but of

life itself. She brightened every room or gathering she was in, had boundless energy and good will and never said no to anything to help in any way she could. USA Volleyball has grown to be a rather large family---Pat was a unique and most important part of that family from a time when it was much smaller. She will be missed more than words can express.



Words cannot express our appreciation for all the thoughtful notes, wonderful emails, beautiful cards, and gorgeous flowers. Pat