



Richard George Patterson

May 26, 1928 - August 4, 2025

Patterson, Richard G.

Announcing with deep sorrow the loss of our kindhearted, empathetic Dad who was so generous in every way, including with his time and the way he and Mom put so much thought into the love and nurturing of our family. We miss the unconditional love that they shared with us. There are people who wouldn't be who they are today without the selfless dedication to teach them and imbue the kind of character that lives on in us. 97 years doesn't seem like nearly a long enough life for our dear sweet precious father, but he was weary from many age-related maladies, and God called him home to join our dear mother in heaven.

Dad grew up in Cascade, Iowa. He graduated Purdue University with a master's in electrical engineering. He went on to be an aerospace engineer at Honeywell, where he met Mom. They were inseparable from their 1st date and married at the Basilica in 1953. They went on to have many happy years together and raised 2 daughters, Christa and Courtney (Cheryl Henley), who miss him and Mom deeply. He is also missed by brother-in-law, Herb Lundberg (Auntie Corky) and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Despite being a busy inventor with a consuming job, contracting for companies such as NASA and Skunkworks, he always found time for us and the many people he helped as a volunteer at many organizations. He was a

quiet genius with a tender heart and a dry sense of humor.

He was known for how he went out of his way to help whomever he could with any projects. He now joins in heaven his beloved wife, Jeanne; sister, Jane Ann (Ralph Rogers); father, George, mother, Mary Anna (Heffernan); and cousins, Jack and Don Heffernan.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at the Basilica of St. Mary on Tuesday September 16, 2025, at 12:00pm (visitation at 11am). In lieu of flowers, please make any donations to Basilica of Saint Mary, or Vocal Essence. Interment Lakewood Cemetery.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **16**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

The Basilica of Saint Mary
1600 Hennepin Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55403

Mass of Christian Burial

SEP **16**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

The Basilica of Saint Mary
1600 Hennepin Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55403

Tribute Wall

CP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Christa Patterson - September 17, 2025 at 01:54 PM

CP

Mom and Dad on their wedding day

Christa Patterson - September 17, 2025 at 01:55 PM

CP

“ 1 file added to the album Dick's Photos



Christa Patterson - September 17, 2025 at 01:46 PM

CP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Christa Patterson - September 17, 2025 at 01:42 PM

CP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Christa Patterson - September 17, 2025 at 01:41 PM

LD

“ *There are people who enter our lives and quietly, steadily, change everything. Richard Patterson was one of those rare souls. He was the kind of person whose goodness didn't need to be announced - it was felt. In the way he greeted you with warmth, listened with patience, and offered help without hesitation. He had a gentle presence that made you feel safe, seen, and valued. He was a father who loved deeply, a friend who gave generously, and a soul who carried grace in every step. His kindness wasn't loud, but it was powerful. It showed up in small, consistent ways: a quiet word of encouragement, a shared moment of peace, a gesture of care that lingered long after. He taught us that goodness is not in grand acts, but in everyday choices to be compassionate and loving. Though he is no longer with us in body, his spirit lives on in the love he gave so freely. His legacy is not just in what he did, but in who he was: a truly good and kind man. I will miss him deeply. But I will also honor him by living as he did - with an open heart, a generous spirit and a commitment to kindness.*

Lisa Dante - September 12, 2025 at 06:18 PM

CH

“ Dick's obituary is in the Star Tribune dated 9/7/2025: <https://obituaries.startribune.com/obituary/richard-patterson-1093072189/?proxy=original>

Cheryl Henley - September 07, 2025 at 02:06 PM

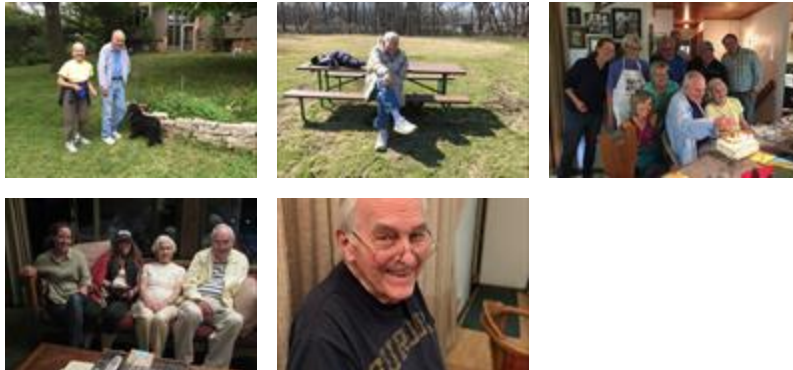
CH

“ I have many fond memories of the past 38 years being a part of the Patterson family. Dick was wicked smart, loyal, caring, dutiful, and very loved by his family, friends and associates. No one could fill his very large shoes. I will miss him dearly.

Cheryl Henley - September 06, 2025 at 03:34 PM

CH

“ 9 files added to the album Dick's Photos



Cheryl Henley - September 06, 2025 at 03:29 PM

CP

Dad's burial is at 1.45 pm at Lakewood today.

Christa Patterson - September 17, 2025 at 01:42 PM

Words of Remembrance

Dick was born in the small town of Cascade Iowa, where he and his older sister Jane grew up. It was 1928, the year before the Great Depression. Cascade was a small close knit community where families, friends and neighbors pulled together and helped each other get through tough times, and celebrated one another's victories. In addition to Jane he grew up with 2 cousins named Jack and Don Heffernan who were more like brothers to them. Dick went to Catholic school where he got a good education and traditional family values. What the nuns there taught him helped shape his deep seated Christian values early on. There was another side to him though...He and his friends loved to play practical jokes, many of which he and his old friends still laugh about to this day. He outlived most of them though, and over time there were fewer and fewer of them to reminisce with, or tell stories of the old glory days of the aerospace programs in which he was involved. Dick first got interested in how things work when he was 6 years old from an old RCA radio. He grew up doing many projects (some of them rather dangerous) that foretold he would one day become an electrical engineer.

In 1949 Richard Patterson graduated with honors and a master's degree in electrical engineering from Purdue University. From there he went to work at Honeywell, where he met his future wife Jeanne. Although it was love at first sight, it took him 6 months to work up the nerve to ask her out. After that they were inseparable, and they married at the Basilica in 1953. They went on to have many happy years together here in the Twin Cities where they designed and built their house and raised their two daughters Christa and Courtney. You can't talk about Richard for any length of time without mentioning Jeanne. The love they had is all too rare nowadays. Their love knew no bounds. In their later years they still watched TV together every night...In spite of political differences and living in a house with many comfortable rooms and TV sets, they took turns watching CNN and FOX so they could spend their time sitting together every night. It was a very rare occurrence to ever see them in separate rooms watching different shows. We have so many happy memories of all the eccentric projects and times we spent with them. Dick was an inventor with a consuming and demanding job as an aerospace engineer. However, no matter how much his fascinating job asked of him, he always found a way to put being a husband and father first. No matter how busy he was, he always found time for his family. Whether it was teaching his daughters how to trade, or just hanging out watching movies, making frames for Jeanne's paintings, wonderful family vacations, or helping the kids with their homework, or making things for us in his workshop, we have so many countless treasured memories of hanging out with our quiet genius Dad, uncle, mentor and friend.

We take comfort in knowing he is reunited with his beloved Jeanne in

heaven.

Christa Patterson - September 17, 2025 at 04:49 PM