

## Trent M. Patterson

March 10, 1941 - March 13, 2017

Trent M. Patterson, 76 of Bluffton, passed away Monday, March 13, 2017. He is survived by his wife of 28 years, Mary Beth (Haecker) Patterson of Bluffton, his sons Marcus (Mira) Patterson of Boston and Ryan (Kelli) Patterson of Chicago; grandchildren Sam, Kate, Lav & Lucy.

Trent was born in Kendallville, IN on March 10, 1941 to Kenneth and Geraldine (Swihart) Patterson both of whom are deceased. A sister, Nancy Collins Stagg, also preceded him in death.

Trent attended Indiana University in Bloomington where he was a member of Beta Theta Pi Fraternity. He graduated in 1963 with a B.S. degree from the Indiana University School of Business. He then entered and graduated from the Indiana University School of Law. While in Law School, Trent worked as a law clerk in the Indiana Attorney General's Office and received a Ford Foundation Grant to work for the Indiana Legislature.

After Law School, he was invited to join the Bluffton law firm of Gallivan and Hamilton which later became Gallivan, Hamilton, Seese and Patterson. Before he closed the Law Firm in 2012, he served as Attorney for the Wells County Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals for 10 years, the Board of Commission of Wells County for 24 years, the Wells County Drainage Board for 23 years, and the Wells County Library for 23 years. Trent also served two terms as President of the Parlor City Country Club.

Trent received several awards over the years from the Volunteer Lawyer Program, which provides free legal services to the indigent who need free

legal services. This work culminated with him receiving in 2013 the first Lifetime Achievement Award ever given by the Group. After closing his office, he became Of Counsel with the Edris, Brown, Johnson, & Brown-Stohler until his passing.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 A.M. on Thursday (March 16, 2017) at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Bluffton. Rev. Msgr. Pius N. Ilechukwu will celebrate the mass. Burial will follow at Elm Grove Cemetery in Bluffton. Calling hours will be held from 2 to 8 P.M. on Wednesday at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton, and for one hour prior to the service at the church. A Rosary service will be held at 8 P.M. on Wednesday at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers the family prefers memorials made to St. Joseph Catholic Church, Wells County Food Bank or Wells County Foundation.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can send online condolences to the family at [www.thomarich.com](http://www.thomarich.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Elm Grove Cemetery

3500 East State Road 124  
Bluffton, IN

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 15. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home  
308 West Washington Street  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
<http://www.thomarich.com>

## Rosary Service

MAR 15. 8:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home  
308 West Washington Street  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
<http://www.thomarich.com>

## Visitation

MAR 16. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St Joseph Catholic Church  
1300 N Main St  
Bluffton, IN

## Mass of Christian Burial

MAR 16. 11:00 AM (ET)

St Joseph Catholic Church  
1300 N Main St  
Bluffton, IN

# Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Trent M. Patterson*



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**Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home** - March 15, 2017 at 01:01 PM



“ *Trent M. Patterson*

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September 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM



“ *I grew up with Trent . We were at I.U. together, nothing but fond memories of Trent all through our youth. Our condolences and prayers to his family.*

*Mark & Barbara Schuyler*

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**Mark Schuyler** - March 28, 2017 at 09:29 PM



“ *Sorry to hear of Trent's passing. He was a 1959 classmate and football teammate at Kendallville High School and a fraternity brother at Beta Theta Pi at I.U. He was always a lot of fun. I have a lot of very good memories. Bob Hedges*

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**Bob Hedges** - March 28, 2017 at 02:22 PM

NL

“ To Trent's family and friends, Trent was a good friend to Jack and me. I remember our good and fun times in school. I am sorry for your loss, and may you find solace and peace in your happy memories of your time with Trent. God Bless you all!

Nancy Young Lewis

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**Nancy Young Lewis** - March 23, 2017 at 11:40 AM

AH

“ Mary Beth and Family,  
Please know my thoughts and prayers are with all of you in your loss of Trent. Trent's parents were my parents' (Dick and Ruth Stoeckley) dear lifelong friends. Nancy and I grew up together from kindergarten clear through IU and were close friends as well.  
Ann Stoeckley Haffner

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**Ann Stoeckley Haffner** - March 17, 2017 at 06:13 PM

CD


“ We send our heartfelt condolences to Marybeth, and family. We sorry to hear of the loss of a fine neighbor.

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**Cindy and Jerry Dillon** - March 17, 2017 at 01:20 PM

BG

“*Mary Beth, I am so sorry to read of Trent passing away. When I served on the Library Board of Trustees in the 1980's and early 1990's during the time the building was being built, Trent was a joy to work with. He was such a fair attorney and his knowledge was such a help to the Board. When he couldn't deliver documents to the State, he would send me. He worked so well the the trustees. You are in my thoughts and Prayers.*



*~BJ Gray*

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**BJ Gray** - March 15, 2017 at 08:46 PM

DD

“*Mary Beth, I want you to know how terribly sorry I am about Trent's passing. He was such a great guy who was blessed with one of those personalities that make the world a better place. Humble, witty and one of the best smiles ever....that's the memory I will always have of him. I am so glad you two found each other. Two personalities that were a perfect match. Wishing you and your family the best.*

*Doug Durr*

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**Doug Durr** - March 15, 2017 at 08:19 PM

VJ

“*Mary Beth, So sorry for your loss. May God give you strength in the coming days. God bless. Val*

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**Valerie Wilson Jackson** - March 15, 2017 at 03:07 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home** - March 15, 2017 at 12:54 PM



“ *Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers* was purchased for the family of **Trent M. Patterson**.



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March 15, 2017 at 09:55 AM



“ *Trent represented my parents, my brother and myself in all of our legal matters for our family estates and farm. We were always treated with respect and the highest professionalism. His dry wit and character always put us at ease and created a level of trust that won't be forgotten. Our prayers and condolences to all of the Patterson Family.*

*Sincerely,  
James & Vaughn Bishop*

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**James Bishop** - March 15, 2017 at 07:33 AM



“ *European Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Trent M. Patterson.*



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March 15, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Mary Beth: I'll not be able to see you. Just know that are in my thoughts. I'm so glad you two were able to share your years together and make the beautiful memories that will sustain you.*  
*Love, Warren*

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**Warren McBride** - March 14, 2017 at 05:47 PM



“ *Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers was purchased for the family of Trent M. Patterson.*



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March 14, 2017 at 05:00 PM



“ *Mary Beth, I'm so sorry to hear the news about Trent. He was such a great guy. Please know I'm thinking of you and your family.*

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**Joyce Burke** - March 14, 2017 at 04:32 PM

BA

“ TRENT, NANCY ANN AND THEIR PARENTS, MY AUNT GERRY AND UNCLE KENNY WERE ALL SO KIND TO ME WHEN MY MOTHER WOULD BRING ME UP TO KENDALVILLE FOR VISITS WILL ADD TRENT TO THE PRAYERS FOR THE REPOSE OF THEIR SOULS

**BILL ARONHIME** - March 14, 2017 at 12:04 PM

VJ

*Mary Beth, so sorry for your loss. May God bring you strength in the coming days. Val*

**Valerie Wilson Jackson** - March 14, 2017 at 09:06 PM

CB

*Mary Beth, sorry for your loss. Prayers for your comfort in days ahead.*

*Christina Bailey*

**Christina Bailey** - March 15, 2017 at 11:00 AM



“ 29 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



**Thoma/Rich,Lemler Funeral Home** - March 14, 2017 at 11:13 AM

SH

“ *Mary Beth, Ryan and Marcus,  
This is what I heard echoing through the halls..... it was a blessing  
to me. I hope it brings comfort and peace to you as well. With  
deepest sympathy, Sheryl  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LonOTKVmkeo>*

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**Sheryl** - March 14, 2017 at 08:42 AM

AS

“ *My deepest condolences, Mary Beth. Trent was simply a good guy,  
and he'll be missed by many in Bluffton. I'm thankful for the long  
chat we had just before he closed the office - thinking about those  
towering stacks of files on his desk makes me smile! You'll all be in  
my thoughts.*

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**Ann Hamilton Shields** - March 13, 2017 at 09:37 PM

TE

“ *Mary Beth and family: We are out of town and won't be home in  
time to see you this week. Please know that you are in our thoughts  
and prayers. I will miss Trent's wry humor and his kind heart....-  
Marge and Ted Ellis*

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**Ted Ellis** - March 13, 2017 at 07:15 PM

JJ

*Mary Beth - we are residents of Big Long Lake and belong to St. Mary  
of the Angels. We would see you at Church. We offer our sympathies  
to you and your family. God Bless!*

*Joanna & Barry Jacobs*

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**Joanna Jacobs** - March 14, 2017 at 02:23 PM

TH

*Trent was such a nice man with a great sense of humor. He was always kind and had such an infectious laugh and a great smile. Our world would be a better place if there were more people like him. Blessings and prayers to his family.*

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**Theresa Haneline** - March 17, 2017 at 09:15 AM