



Patrick John Little

August 5, 1945 - April 14, 2026

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Patrick John Little, a man of deep integrity, sharp wit, and a lifelong commitment to service, passed away of natural causes on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, in Saline, Michigan. He was 80 years old.

Early Life and Education

Born on August 5, 1945, Pat was raised in River Rouge, Michigan. A product of the Catholic school system, he graduated from Our Lady of Lourdes High School, where he excelled in football and baseball. However, it was on the ice where Pat felt most at home; his passion for hockey stayed with him long after high school, and he continued playing the game well into his late 30s.

Dedicated to his craft and his community, he went on to graduate from Concordia University Ann Arbor and the prestigious FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

A Career of Service

Pat's professional life was defined by his dedication to protecting others. He began his career in the late 1960s as a patrolman with the Detroit Police Department, where he served in the Tactical Mobile Unit. In 1974, Pat and his wife, Sheila, moved to Saline to raise their family. He joined the Washtenaw

County Sheriff's Department and eventually rose to head the Detective Bureau. His commitment to safety carried over into his work with the Washtenaw Community College Security Department.

Leadership and Legacy

Pat's impact on the City of Saline was profound. His local leadership began on the ballfields as a Little League coach and extended to the Parks and Recreation committee. His desire to give back led him to the Saline City Council and eventually to two terms as the Mayor of Saline. Among his many contributions, Pat was especially proud to be a co-founder of the Saline Celtic Festival—a vibrant community celebration that continues to thrive today, sustained by his original vision.

A Life Well-Lived

Beyond his public roles, Pat was known for his quick wit and love of a good joke. Whether he was on the golf course or enjoying a "wee dram" with dear friends, his humor was a constant. He was an avid reader and a dedicated history buff, and in his quieter moments, he enjoyed the creative outlets of painting and writing.

Pat was a devoted husband and a steady, caring father who never missed an opportunity to support his children's athletic or academic milestones. His family vacations were spent at Big Platte Lake, fishing and enjoying the company of extended family "up north," away from the rigors of police work. He and Sheila shared a love for travel, creating cherished memories on trips to Ireland, England, Wales, and Scotland. He was so proud of his grandchildren and made a point of expressing it often.

Family

Pat was preceded in death by his parents, John Alexander Little and Helen Yoland Little (Patyi), and son-in-law Kevin France.

His legacy lives on through his beloved wife, Sheila Little; his children, Bethany France and Patrick Little; his daughter-in-law, Nicole Little; and his seven grandchildren: Allison Barkel, Sean Little, Nolan Little, Alek France, Cameron Little, Delaney Little, and Lindsey France.

Service Information

A memorial service to celebrate Pat's life will be held on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at the First Presbyterian Church of Saline. Memorial gathering will begin at 10:00 A.M. until 11:30 A.M. Memorial Service will take place at 11:30 A.M. The Rev. Kimberly Secrist Ashby will officiate. A luncheon for all family and friends will follow the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made "in memory of Pat Little" to the First Presbyterian Church of Saline: 143 E. Michigan Ave, Saline, MI 48176. Online donations can be submitted here: <https://salinepres.breezeczms.com/give/online>

Arrangements entrusted to the Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home, Saline. Memories of Pat and condolences for the family may be shared at www.rbfhsaline.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

APR **29**. 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
143 E Michigan Ave
Saline, MI 48176
(734) 429-4140

Memorial Service

APR **29**. 11:30 AM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
143 E Michigan Ave
Saline, MI 48176
(734) 429-4140

Luncheon

APR **29**. 12:30 PM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
143 E Michigan Ave
Saline, MI 48176
(734) 429-4140

Tribute Wall

MH

“ *Sheila. I am so sorry that Pat passed away. I still remember our trips to Brecon. He had such a sense of humor. I remember the story of the cows coming over the bridge into Detroit. He will be missed. RIP.*

Martha Hubbard - May 09 at 10:40 AM



“ *I grew up next door to Pat. He and my Dad were detectives together at the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office. He was always encouraging, funny and I looked up to him as a great role model and neighbor.*

My prayers and condolences to Sheila, Patrick (Jr) and Bethany. I am so sorry for your loss. I will always remember Pat as someone special who made my life better.

Don Campbell - April 22 at 10:51 PM



“ *Thinking of You in This Time of Loss was purchased for the family of Patrick John Little.*



April 21 at 11:33 AM

KC

“ *I knew Pat from church softball..Very nice guy...Sorry for your loss*

Ken clark - April 19 at 09:06 PM

DM

“ I am so sorry to learn of Pat’s passing. My husband Brian also served under Pat as a detective at the Sheriff’s Department. It was there that we made lifelong friends, and Pat was instrumental in creating those bonds. My thoughts and prayers are with Shelia and family.

Debbie (Sapsford) McBrien

Debbie McBrien - April 18 at 05:29 PM

LH

“ I was sorry to hear the loss of Pat. I served under him when he was head of the detective bureau at the Washtenaw County Sheriff Department. Pat was a natural leader, and it was a pleasure to work for him. We remained good friends after leaving the department. Rest In Peace PJ.....

Larry Hoffman - April 18 at 03:42 PM

DR

“ Always loved our group of WCSD. The stories that were told around the table always kept us laughing. We will miss Pat from the group



Denise Ralph - April 18 at 02:13 PM

DS

“ 6 files added to the album *Some photos of Mayor Pat*



Donald Shelton - April 18 at 12:06 PM

BF

Mr. Shelton, this is very much appreciated!! Thank you!!

Bethany (Little) France - April 18 at 12:47 PM

TE

“ *I so cherish the memories I have of Pat in the past few years during bible studies we did together. He was so knowlegable in the history of biblical events and past religous beliefs. I will miss him very much.*

Terrie Eroh - April 17 at 09:33 PM

TK

“ *P.J. You will be dearly missed... Pat was a true mentor and wonderful friend. It was an honor to serve with him at the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office. My prayers to his wife Shelia and his children. Rest in peace my friend and God Bless you...
Tommy H Keshishian*

Tommy H Keshishian - April 17 at 01:50 PM



“ *Pat and I have been buddies since the 1st grade. Over the years we shared many joys and sorrows, but always carried on and preserved our friendship.*

From our early days until now, we enjoyed each other's company....golf outings, a few "bachelor" trips to Florida, and several pints.

Sheila, you have been his rock and guide these last several years, my sincerest condolences to you.

Patrick Jr., he was so proud of you and your beautiful family, almost every email he sent updated me on your family accomplishments.

Rest in Peace Dear Friend

Dan Kujawa - April 17 at 01:42 PM



“ *I had the honor of working for Pat at the Washtenaw County Sheriff's office and considered him a great friend. Our thoughts and Prayers go out the Shelia and the kids. R.I.P. until we meet again.*

George Ralph - April 17 at 10:37 AM