



Mr. Patrick Neal Upton

August 5, 1940 - July 27, 2016

Beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend to many, Patrick Neal Upton, 75, passed Wednesday, July 27, 2016, with his family around him.

Known for his music and his love of family, friends and community, Mr. Upton is survived by his wife Donna Lynn Upton, three daughters, Danielle Nichols, Jenifer Bearden (Charles) and Nicki Hill (Josh), and his son, Patrick Upton Jr., two sisters, Karen Monroe (Johnny) and Susan Galloway (Ricky), one brother Mike Upton (Elaine); grandchildren Jacqueline and Natalie Nichols, Maddie and Cal Bearden, Cooper and Mia Hill, and several nieces and nephews.

Born and raised in Geraldine, Alabama, Upton made music his career from an early age and is best known for the Spiral Starecase hit "More Today Than Yesterday," which was No. 12 on the Billboard chart in 1970. He performed most recently with the "Thirty Years of Rock 'n Roll" tour and frequently sang at fundraisers for local charities and events. He also toured and recorded with his good friend, Ricky Nelson.

He loved golf and was a daily player in the golf group at Gunters Landing. Upton served in the U.S. Air Force in the mid-1960s and was stationed in California.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ernest and Elva Upton, and a brother, Don Upton (Edna).

A memorial service in celebration of his life will be held at Geraldine First Baptist Church, Highway 227, Geraldine, at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 4. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial gifts

be made to the Alabama Sheriff's Youth Ranch Association, Wounded Warrior or any local charity for underprivileged children.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

AUG 4. 3:00 PM (CT)

Geraldine First Baptist Church

Tribute Wall

CM

“ I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt appreciation for the cherished memories we shared. Patrick was not only a gifted musician, celebrated for his enchanting song "Spiral Staircase," but he was also a dear friend whose spirit brightened every room.

I will always treasure the stories Patrick shared about his time spent with the legendary Ricky Nelson. Those moments reflected not only his passion for music but also the deep bonds he formed with his idols. He spoke of their shared laughter, late-night jam sessions, and the invaluable lessons Ricky imparted, which helped shape Patrick's own musical journey. Those stories were a testimony to his love for the craft and the joy of connecting with others who shared that passion.

Though Patrick may no longer be with us, the melodies he created and the warmth he offered will live on in our hearts. Rest in peace, dear friend. Your music, laughter, and the memories of your time with Ricky will forever inspire us.

With love, Comedian Jay Mather

comedian Mather - July 30, 2025 at 05:22 PM

CM

“ 1 file added to the album Comedian Jay Mather



Comedian Jay Mather - June 08, 2019 at 01:40 AM

LK

My name is Lila Kaylor. So sad to hear about Pat. He was a dear friend of mine. Sending love

Lila Kaylor - September 11, 2020 at 07:01 PM

BW

RIP Pat, your beautiful voice will always be the highlight of the great Spiral Staircase!

Bobby Wison Clarkesville, Ga.

Bobby Wilson - July 07, 2024 at 12:51 AM

LM

“ *MY CONDOLENCES GO OUT FURTHER TO PAT... {as}*

I have written a heart warming story in LOVING MEMORY of Pat in the Comment section. at WWW.Pat Upton WN Music.com PLEASE TURN TO THIS FILE & READ MY HEART FELT STORY. THANK YOU.....RHONDA BURICH



Lori Mclquham - August 15, 2016 at 09:56 AM

LM

“ My condolence to Lynn & the family. Pat was a Kind, Considerate & Honest Person in so many ways. He had a LOVE & DEVOTION for his Music as tat meant a lot to him. I'm so happy & grateful to have known such a wonderful guy & GREAT ENTERTAINER..that Pat was. He was My Friend!!



THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES
TO BE TREASURED ALWAYS...
REST IN PEACE...MY FRIEND
Rhonda Burich

Lori McIlquham - August 15, 2016 at 09:45 AM

LM

“ Patrick was very well known for his songs, he will be missed.



Lori McIlquham - August 15, 2016 at 09:32 AM

LM

“ Patrick Upton was very well known singer, he brought many fans to love his music all over the US. Patrick will be missed by many fans.



Lori McIlquham - August 15, 2016 at 09:11 AM

PU

Pat Upton was a great singer. I remember years ago in high school where i first heard More Today Than Yesterday. I love that song and Pat

Phyllis Uzzle - October 26, 2017 at 09:38 PM

EL

“ *Our deepest sympathy and condolences to The Upton Family in their great loss of Pat. What a wonderful man, and great talent Pat is and always will be. Until we shall all meet again one day when Our Lord says so. May the Peace and Love of Our Lord Jesus be with The Upton Family. God Bless You Pat Upton.*



Edward Lambese - August 04, 2016 at 07:34 AM



On a Phone call with Him He told me This was The Most important Meaning of Patrick's Life was His Faith and His Love for His wife and Family

Jay Mather - June 08, 2019 at 02:43 AM

CL

“ *My heart is still so sad. He was the sweetest man...and I will always be grateful I knew him! So many many fun and wonderful memories. Heaven got an amazing Angel! I know he's singing up there and wowing them with that beautiful voice!!*



Catie Lyons - August 03, 2016 at 09:35 PM

RB

“ My condolences to the family of Mr. Pat Upton. I, along with many others had the privilege of sharing time with Pat, both musically and personally. I played with Mark, Tim and Gene(Gino) for what are some of the most memorable times of my life. Pat was warm and funny and never lost that "high note". I remember him singing from the floor of P.J.'s, and having a conversation with him in Florida about "More today than yesterday". He was a kind soul and I am better for knowing him. My sincere prayers for you. Randy Beason

randy beason - August 02, 2016 at 07:41 PM

GL

“ deepest condolences to family from hundreds of thousands of fans in Australia.



Glenn - August 01, 2016 at 10:13 PM

MG

“ Condolence to All the Family and Friends in this great loss for Geraldine, Al. We loved u Pat and you always remained the same and always knew your friends wherever you saw them. You will certainly be missed! He was at Mr n Mrs Guest house practicing with the FFA quartet the nite Gary and I came in and told them we had been married a month
Secretly on Aug 13th 1957. Will never forget that. Thought that might be something everybody might remember too especially who knew us that well!
Gary and Mavis Guest. We. Loved u Pat Thanks for the Memories!

Mavis and Gary Guest - August 01, 2016 at 01:15 AM

FG

“ Freddie & Joy Guice lit a candle in memory of Mr. Patrick Neal Upton



Freddie & Joy Guice - July 30, 2016 at 10:14 PM

LH

“ May happy memories carry you through this sorrowful time! My thoughts and prayers are with you all. I graduated Geraldine High School with Pat in 1958. Pat was beloved by all his classmates. My first thought when I heard about Pat's death, was that he was always happy, energetic, and having fun. Also, I remember how much he loved singing.

God's Blessings!
Linda Mayfield Sharp Hickson

Linda M. Sharp Hickson - July 30, 2016 at 04:34 PM

DR

“ I Danis Richey named my Brother after Pat when we were in the 4th Grade at Geraldine, My Brother is Pat Richey

Danis Richey - July 30, 2016 at 03:54 PM

DR

“ 4th Grade at Geraldine, 1950, Pat was my best friend. When my Brother was Born my mother said I could name him. I named him after Pat, Brother is Pat Richey in Crossville, Al

Danis Richey - July 30, 2016 at 01:38 PM

MM

“ Not only could Pat sing, he could dance and dive also. Pat was a fun person to be with.

My condolences go out to family. Marolyn Horton McGriff

Marolyn Horton McGriff - July 30, 2016 at 12:17 PM



“ My dad was a police officer in Guntersville, he was Don Pritchett. I remember going dove hunting with Pat on his land on Spring Creek drive before all the houses we're built. Pat also arranged for a tour of Ricky Nelson's airplane when he performed at P. J. 'S Alley. He will be greatly missse..

Donald Pritchett - July 30, 2016 at 10:22 AM

MA

We are so saddened to hear of Pats passing. We send our love and prayers. You are loved.

Marie - August 03, 2016 at 12:28 AM

TB

“ Tammy Buchanan lit a candle in memory of Mr. Patrick Neal Upton



Tammy Buchanan - July 30, 2016 at 09:41 AM


DJ

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the Upton family for peace and comfort. Pat was a true talent in his music but more importantly one of the finest people I have ever known and I am so proud that He was my friend.*

*David Johnson
Former Director
Alabama Music Hall of Fame.*



David Johnson - July 29, 2016 at 08:14 PM

 Nancy Ferguson

“ *Nancy Ferguson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Patrick Neal Upton*



Nancy Ferguson - July 29, 2016 at 05:49 PM

“ *May all the wonderful memories of Pat and his music lift all of Pat's family and friends. With deepest sympathy for the loss of such a kind man*

*Death is nothing at all.
I have only slipped away to the next room.
I am I and you are you.
Whatever we were to each other,
That, we still are.*

*Call me by my old familiar name.
Speak to me in the easy way
which you always used.
Put no difference into your tone.
Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.*

*Laugh as we always laughed
at the little jokes we enjoyed together.
Play, smile, think of me. Pray for me.
Let my name be ever the household word
that it always was.
Let it be spoken without effect.
Without the trace of a shadow on it.*

*Life means all that it ever meant.
It is the same that it ever was.
There is absolute unbroken continuity.
Why should I be out of mind
because I am out of sight?*

*I am but waiting for you.
For an interval.
Somewhere. Very near.
Just around the corner.*

All is well.

Gwen Wilson - July 29, 2016 at 03:57 PM

JH

“ *Judy Huggins lit a candle in memory of Mr. Patrick Neal Upton*



Judy Huggins - July 29, 2016 at 02:52 PM

JH

My thoughts and prayers are with all of Pat's family! He was a great person and will be missed by many! He was a dear friend and golfing buddy of my late husband, Steve, but I believe Pat always called him "hubcap". RIP my friend!!....."More Today Than Yesterday" will forever be in my heart.

Judy Huggins - July 29, 2016 at 02:58 PM

LM

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Lori Mcilquham - August 15, 2016 at 09:05 AM

PL

Thanks Pat Upton for such a beautiful song, "More Today Than Yesterday"- I absolutely love that song and it always makes me happy when I hear it. What a gift you had to leave such joy that will last forever. May God bless your soul and give you eternal life.

PATRICIA LUPICA - February 03, 2017 at 09:00 AM

LH

The voice of an Angel r.i.p. Mr Upton, that single song brought more joy to people's hearts and put more smiles on people's faces than you probably ever realized. When I listen to it today, it is pure joy and still makes me smile ear to ear. God bless.

les hinton - August 14, 2020 at 10:46 PM