

Pat K Awarded David Wooster Medal at Grand Masters Day

At the podium on Grand Masters Day, MW Art Carlstrom told of how, when asked how he made his pin, he would reply that he made a sketch and took it to Pat. Pat who? "Where's Pat? Come up here, kid. We're going to make sure everyone knows who Pat is."

Patricia Kalinauskas, (better known as "Pat K") was born on March 25, 1948, in Hartford, Connecticut to Patricia Goodsky and Walton Davidson. Pat's siblings include Edward, Linda, and Charles.

Pat grew up "an army brat" as her father was a military man and the family followed his career to Colorado, Kansas, Texas, Indiana, and Germany. Pat attended school in Germany during her elementary years. She never stayed in one place for long growing up, but did come back to her father's family farm in Penrod, Kentucky. Penrod – population 2000 – is, in case you don't know, located 8-10 miles north of Wolf Lick. Everyone knows where that is!!

From a young age, Pat's caring and compassionate nature shown through. Being the oldest of four children, Pat helped her mother care for the younger children. She took her duties seriously, always making sure her sister and brothers were fed and on time for school and helping her mother watch them in the afternoon. All of her life one of Pat's biggest joys has been animals. Her sister Linda recalled that she once climbed down into a pit to rescue a stray dog that had become trapped. She was scraped up when she finally got out, but she was more concerned with the dog. This compassion was passed on to her children, who had a knack of bringing her half-dead birds, mice and, once, a squirrel they had found in the back yard, asking her to "fix it."

Pat's curious nature led her to study for her pilot's license in 1979. She did not take the final test, but did get over her fear of heights and flying!

Pat joined Martha Chapter No. 21, Order of Eastern Star in November 1981, and affiliated with Temple Chapter No 53 in 1985. All together she served these two chapters as Worthy Matron for six years (1988, 1991, 1995, 1996, 2003, and 2008). She also served the Grand Chapter of Connecticut as Grand Adah in 1994 and as Grand Representative to the Grand Chapter of South Carolina from 1989 to 1991.

Early on, it was clear that Pat had found a family and an outlet for her compassion and creativity. During her years of service, Pat

has organized countless functions, created programs for special events, or "set-up shop" in her home to mass-produce tiles, centerpieces, or some other craft item.

She belongs to Laurel Court No. 8, Order of Amaranth, and she is a Past Mother Advisor of Manchester Assembly No. 15, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls. Pat's daughter Amy is a majority member of that assembly. For her service to Rainbow, Pat was awarded the Grand Cross of Color.

It was at least partially the result of her exposure to Freemasonry that, when the opportunity came in 1993, she jumped at the chance to work for Masonicare. Over the years she has become an integral part of the marketing team. She has enjoyed being part of the annual Grand Masters Day and countless other functions. Pat does not talk much about what she does, but rather about the residents she has come to love and how wonderful the Health Center is.

For the Grand Lodge, through the creative use of her computer, she has assisted numerous Grand Masters in the design and preparation of multi-colored renditions of the traditional Grand Master's lapel pins.

One would think that all of the activity in the Order of Eastern Star and at Masonicare would be enough to keep her busy. However, she is now approaching her 21st year as a Red Cross disaster services volunteer.

Over the years Pat has helped countless fire and disaster victims pull their lives back together. She has also lent her talents to teaching "disaster service" to other volunteers.

During the aftermath of September 11, 2001, she was a volunteer supervisor working with families who lost loved ones in the Twin Towers, at the Pentagon, and in the crash of Flight 93 in Pennsylvania. And, when hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated Louisiana in 2005, Pat assisted the Red Cross in the Family Services Center, processing evacuees. She also assisted Homeland Security in relocating a Hurricane Rita family into a new home in South Windsor, Connecticut.

More recently Pat has gone back to her



MW Art Carlstrom surprised Pat Kalinauskas with the David Wooster Medal at Grand Masters Day.

first love – animals. On any given Saturday afternoon (except Grand Masters Day!) she can be found waiting for a van full of shelter dogs to show up in Rocky Hill, desperately in need of some love and a walk. Pat has also become active with Labs4Rescue, performing home visits of potential adoptive families.

Pat is proud to be the mother of daughters Angela and Amy, stepmother of Vincent, Jr., Doreen, and Cathy, and grandmother of eight.

Pat resides with her husband Vincent, four-legged companions Chance and Ruby, and a bird, Gabby, in Manchester.

For her service to her family, to fellow citizens in times of trouble, to the Masonic Fraternity in its several venues, to the residents at Masonicare, and to the canine friends so desperately needed by lonely people, the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M of Connecticut is pleased and proud to present to Patricia Ellen Kalinauskas the David Wooster Medal in Bronze for Eminent Service to Humanity in the fields of Artistic Design and Responsible Citizenship.