



## Patricia McKay Griswold

February 1, 1960 - March 29, 2018

Patricia McKay Griswold died March 29, 2018 following a recent cancer diagnosis. She was 58.

She was employed as a special education teacher who passionately dedicated her life to helping others succeed.

Patricia was born Feb. 1, 1960 in Fort Benning, Georgia to Kevin and Patricia S. McKay.

She grew up in West Germany, Williamsburg, Baton Rouge, Memphis, and Pensacola, Florida.

In her teens, she found her first job as a motel maid. After that experience, she never failed to leave a tip.

In her twenties and thirties, she lived in New York City and Rochester, New York, where her son, Jonathan Biltucci, and daughter, Crysti Biltucci, were born in 1986 and 1988. She worked as a waitress for several years before returning to Pensacola.

In 1996, she graduated from the University of West Florida with a B.A. in Special Education and was employed teaching children with autism.

In 1998, she married Lewis Griswold and bravely moved to Visalia with her pre-teen children. In 1999, her youngest daughter, Natalie Griswold, was born.

For 19 years until her death, Patricia worked as a special education teacher at the Tulare County Office of Education. She was assigned to county classrooms in Woodlake, Exeter, Visalia and Tulare, teaching children with moderate to severe special needs. For many, she was known as "Teacher Trish."

She often helped families navigate the educational system to obtain the best possible results for their children.

In 2009, she earned her M.A. in Special Education from Fresno Pacific University, where she later taught night classes.

In recognition of her skills in the classroom, the Office of Education awarded her the 2017 Brent Rast Award for Excellence in Special Education.

In 2016, Patricia ran for election to Visalia Unified School District Board of Trustees in Area 5 and won with 54% of the vote in a three-person race. Her knowledge of educational issues soon became evident, leading fellow board members to name her Board Clerk after only one year.

Her professional successes did not define her, however, at least not in her view. She firmly believed her most important accomplishments in life were raising her children and providing a loving home environment. As friends can attest, Patricia was very proud of her children.

She will be dearly missed by family, friends, and colleagues.

Patricia is survived by her husband Lewis, and her children: Jonathan Biltucci and his wife Marissa, of San Diego; Crysti Unkrich and her husband Aaron, of Buffalo, NY; and Natalie Griswold, a student at Fresno State. She is also survived by her mother, Patricia McKay, sister Mary Jo McKay, and nieces Stephanie and Alexandra Thake, all of East Northport, New York.

A Celebration of Life service will take place at Christ Lutheran Church, 3830 W. Tulare Avenue on Wednesday, April 4 at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

APR 4. 6:00 PM (PT)

Christ Lutheran Church  
3830 W Tulare Ave  
Visalia, CA 93277

# Tribute Wall

JJ

“ My condolences to Lewis and family. I only knew Patricia through her delightful service on the Visalia Unified School District Board of Trustees. She and Lewis both have a legacy of service to make our community a better place for the future. May God bless you all.  
Jerrold Jensen

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**Jerrold Jensen** - April 10, 2018 at 09:01 AM

DJ

“ Our Sympathy to you and your family during this difficult time.  
Sincerely, Dr. Roger Johnson

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**Dr. Roger Johnson** - April 09, 2018 at 05:15 PM

WM

“ Trish was a new friend. We first met as parents whose youngest child was involved in high school arts. We reconnected over Trish's work with the school board. We shared many cups of coffee discussing educational topics. I appreciated how deeply Trish cared about the defacto learning environment for students. She was funny, smart, genuine and asked really good questions. Less than a year ago, we celebrated (over coffee) that both Natalie and my son were accepted to Smittcamp and dreamed aloud of the adventures our children would have. Her passing is an untimely loss and I offer my deepest condolences.

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**Wendy Miller** - April 04, 2018 at 11:17 PM

AJ

“ THANK YOU Teacher Trish for all of your support and help ..... You were an awesome teacher for Victor...  
much love  
The Jaramillo family

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**Annette Jaramillo** - April 04, 2018 at 04:18 PM

CM

“ Carlos and Colleen Mestas purchased the Pretty Please for the family of Patricia McKay Griswold.



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**Carlos and Colleen Mestas** - April 04, 2018 at 02:12 PM

LL

“ Lozano Smith, Attorneys At Law purchased the Summer's Light Bouquet for the family of Patricia McKay Griswold.



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**Lozano Smith, Attorneys At Law** - April 04, 2018 at 12:43 PM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Patricia McKay Griswold.



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April 04, 2018 at 11:46 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Patricia McKay Griswold.*



April 03, 2018 at 09:13 PM



“ *Sweet Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of Patricia McKay Griswold.*



April 03, 2018 at 01:37 PM



“ *Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Patricia McKay Griswold.*



April 03, 2018 at 01:31 PM



“ *Cheri Barnes purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Patricia McKay Griswold.*



**Cheri Barnes** - April 02, 2018 at 06:35 PM

LR

“ Jonathan and Crysti,

*I am so sorry for your lost. I know my mom was in heaven, welcoming your mom home. I'm sure that was a nice reunion, with "Aunt Nee" and Trish's many other loved ones who went before her. She was a good friend, a wonderful mother, so full of love, life and positive energy. She helped make my wedding special, at one of the most difficult transitions in her own life. What a truly selfless gesture that was. (I'm still grateful that she did not allow my crazy clan of cousins to wrap me in toilet paper, as was the tradition! She was fiesty, and she blocked their efforts in a mighty way! So that is but one of many special memories I have of her.) I send my love to you both, and to Natalie, as well. I am so glad the three of you, and your spouses have each other to lean on. Love, hugs and prayers, Laurie*

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**Laurie Roeder** - April 01, 2018 at 07:17 PM