



### **In Remembrance:**

Patrick Eli Coyle died Friday May 31, 2024 at age 85 in an Altoona Wisconsin nursing home from dementia related complications. "The sun comes up and the sun goes down. The hands on the clock keep a-goin' round. Life gets tee-jus, don't it." (Especially in a nursing home. Until just 5 months ago, Pat lived on Medicine Lake, near Minneapolis.)

Pat was a dreamer. He was smart and intuitive. He got straight A's in school without studying. He loved fiddling with mechanical and electrical stuff; taking things apart and putting them back together. He had the knack of looking at something and being able to visualize a solution (maybe not the simplest). In 1960, before sailboarding started, while attending the Rose Bowl he watched people surfing and thought 'How cool it would be to attach a sail to that board'. He received a Minnesota Engineers License in 1989. He was a "night person" and loved to read. When young he got in trouble for reading by flashlight under the blankets. He was precise and a smart-ass, a perfectionist and contrary. Don't tell him he can't or shouldn't do something!

Born in South Bend Indiana on July 13, 1938 to Hubert Elmer Coyle and Virginia Kathryn Brown, he was the first of 8 children. In 1950 the family moved from the small farm in Indiana to Eau Claire WI and started a dairy farm. Pat was active in FFA and 4-H. He enjoyed driving tractors, riding horses and showing cows at the fair but hated milking the cows. In October 1959, he broke his neck when his '57 Mercury convertible was in an accident and rolled over. Recovering in the hospital with thongs in his head and weights on his feet is where he met his best friend Sandy who was working as an aide.

Pat finally escaped the dairy farm to the University of Wisconsin in Madison. There he became very involved with the "Hoofers Outing Club" to the detriment of completing college but the gain of his future wife on August 20, 1966. He loved music, archery, sailing, canoeing, camping, bonfires, traveling and star gazing. He was in awe of the universe and science. "Patrick Eli" is a star named for him in the constellation of Cassiopeia (RA 0h 44m 28.97s D 57° 52' 9.46").

He always wanted to be an airplane pilot. After graduating from Eau Claire Senior High in 1955, he went to the SAC Headquarters in Nebraska to sign up as an air force pilot. The results from his aptitude test indicated that he should be a navigator. He declined their offer. For him it was being a pilot or nothing. Later in life he completed the pilot's course but couldn't afford the flights required. It wasn't until 1997 while visiting Kitty Hawk NC that he got to fly a plane.

Pat's employers were "whoever needs help". These ranged from shoveling liverwurst at Oscar Myer, manager of The Pet Lodge in Madison and Duluth, and warehouse manager of Jacobs Trading in Minneapolis, to network administrator for Marge Coyle and Associates.

Pat is predeceased by his wife, Margaret Francis (Heim) Coyle in 2010, father 2007, mother 2013, sisters Sharon Roberta Mullarkey 1976 and Mary Agnes Pierce (Dowling MI) in April of this year. He is survived by his significant other Sandra LoKrantz (Eau Claire WI), brothers Michael (Rapid City SD) and Jon (San Diego CA), sisters Therese Trieloff (Buena Vista GA) Amanda Coyle (Urbana IL) and Jacqueline Coyle (Mesa AZ).

Pat believed his greatest lessons in life were to "Watch out for the unexpected. Be prepared. Keep out the negative. Be positive. You can do it!" He most wanted to be remembered as "being helpful". His message to loved ones was "Watch over each other. The clock could stop at midnight and there is no tomorrow. Stay Positive – The results can be amazing."

"Five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred minutes. ... How do you measure, measure a year? ... How can you measure the life of a woman or a man? ... It's time now to sing out though the story never ends. Let's celebrate and remember a year in the life of friends." On Pat's birthday his ashes will be mixed with those of his late wife and set adrift on the north shore of Lake Superior.

"So be it!"