



L.A. "Buddy" Patrick

November 22, 1946 - February 19, 2025

L.A. "Buddy" Patrick, 78, of Woodstock, Georgia, passed away on February 19, 2025, leaving behind a legacy of hard work, generosity, and unwavering dedication to family.

Born in Adrian, GA, Buddy was the sixth of ten children in a family that knew the true meaning of hard work. His parents, Emmet and Grace Patrick, ran a bustling household in a tiny 1,000-square-foot home with no bathroom, no air conditioning, and no shortage of character-building experiences. If you wanted warm water, you boiled it. If you wanted space, well... you didn't get any.

From a young age, Buddy worked long days in the cotton and tobacco fields beneath the sweltering Georgia sun. Nights were spent crammed into a bed with more siblings than blankets. While he loved his family dearly, it didn't take him long to decide that farm life wasn't his calling. So at 18, with twenty dollars in his pocket, a sharp mind, and a firm resolve to never pick another row of cotton, Buddy set off for Atlanta to carve out a new future.

And carve it out he did. In 1969, he became the youngest commercial real estate broker in Atlanta, founding Buddy Patrick Realtors, a firm that soon became a fixture of the metro area's business world. His honesty, work ethic, and natural ability to connect with people set him apart. Despite his success, Buddy never forgot his roots. He remained devoted to his family and visited often. No matter how far he had come from the farm, he carried its lessons with him throughout his life. He was known for his warmth, humor, and love of simple pleasures—like the time he famously asked a limo driver to take him to

a pond so he could go fishing.

Buddy is survived by his beloved wife of 52 years, Rita; his son, Kilby; and his cherished granddaughter, Katherine Elizabeth (Kayleigh). He is also survived by his brother, Edwin Patrick, and his wife, Ingrid; his sisters, Sheri McFalls and her husband, Cecil, and Pam Patrick; along with a large extended family who will forever treasure his memory.

Buddy's journey—from the dusty fields of Swainsboro to the towering skyline of Atlanta—is a testament to perseverance, charm, and the power of chasing dreams. He will be dearly missed, yet never forgotten.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 15, 2025, at 12 PM at Mount Zion Baptist Church, 4096 East Cherokee Drive, Canton, GA.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Atlanta Community Food Bank, a fitting tribute to a man who spent his life working hard—and making sure others had food on their tables.

Tribute Wall



“ *As the young Executive Director of the New Jersey Apartment Buddy, graciously and generously, offered to help me in any way he could. He was a model, a mentor and a friend.*

Nathan Slovin - March 30, 2025 at 10:52 AM

KP

“ *How we loved Uncle Buddy's stories! Especially of Jason & Phillip when they were little and Uncle Buddy & Aunt Rita took care of them. He was such a sweet spirit to be around. Such a calming demeanor & brought so much light to a room. He will be greatly missed! We love our Patrick family, and are sending lots of love until we can hug in person on Saturday ❤️*

Kathy Patrick - March 12, 2025 at 11:11 AM

KK

“ *Buddy was a great man and my memories of him meeting first at my sister Deana's wedding as a child were joyful. Over the years whether it was picking me up at the Atlanta airport or hosting at his home I loved every moment. My heart goes to Cousin Rita and Kilby at this time..love you..
Kelly June Keith*

kelly keith - March 10, 2025 at 03:29 AM

“ My big brother lives in some of my happiest memories. Middle born and nine years my senior, Buddy helped raise me and Sherri. Though he couldn't wait to leave the farm for brighter opportunities, once he did, he always came back. Always made time for our family, for me. I could count on him for the unexpected and to shake things up. Sometimes he surprised us country folk with city folk. Sometimes those city folk couldn't believe their eyes. He got a kick out of the shock on their faces. We all did.

Buddy was a natural entertainer who had the ability to make another feel like the only one in the room. During my teen years, on one very special occasion, I became a princess for the night. He'd gifted a beautiful, simple, white gown...My first fancy evening dress; first night out in the big ATL; first elegant restaurant (Fleur de Lis); and divine first taste of lobster Thermidor. We topped the night at a classy piano bar (yes he got me in). I was mortified when someone with a microphone said something like "... tune is dedicated to Pam." So out of my element and socially awkward, yet Buddy's pride in me was obvious to strangers there and most important, to me. We country people looked good y'all and he knew it. It was a memorable evening.

We came from SE Georgia where the red clay is a perfect medium for thrill seeking and figure eights after a good rain. No shock that Buddy drove with the grace of a skilled madman in downtown traffic, all the while playing the tender, easy-going music of Johnny Mathis. Extremes anyone? The adrenaline rush I felt from the torque of that Mercedes, its new-car leather smell, electric windows shut tight against city noises, that smooth music and feel of soft leather seats. He baptized me in the entire experience. It was awesome!

Thanks for many fun "big-brother and me" moments Bro. I'm happy I told you personally you were a good brother. Thanks for the joy you brought. I'm forever grateful to you for your love and support in good times or bad. You always wanted the best for me. For all of us.

Play well up there... Not sure you're ready to "rest"—you so loved life and lived it with all your heart!

I love and miss you.

pam patrick - March 08, 2025 at 05:44 PM

NM

“*My heart is broken to know that Buddy has gone home. I am truly grateful that I saw him just a few months ago as we remembered another treasured member of the multi housing family here in ATL. I will always be grateful for the memory of seeing Buddy's contagious smile as he greeted me with the nickname he gave me so long ago, McPrecious, HELLO McPRECIOUS, he said. I still use that nickname and now it means more than ever. Buddy was the epitome of a Southern Gentleman and he was adored by all blessed to know him. A couple of things you would know about Buddy if you hung around for a few minutes, He loved his wife & son with a passion that was so obvious and he loved the Lord. I know my friend, will rest in eternal peace till we meet again.*

"Grief is the price we pay for LOVE!" Queen Elizabeth II.....

*You will always hold a special place in our hearts, Buddy!!!
XOXOXO Nancy Jo AKA McPrecious*

Nancy Jo McDaniel - March 08, 2025 at 10:25 AM

RJ

“Buddy Patrick was slated to be President of AAA in 1989 , indeed a high and deserving honor!! At the time, AAA was looking for a full time Executive Director. Buddy gave up his life long dream of being President and accepted the AAA CEO position and transformed the Apt Assoc into the finest apartment association in the entire nation! A man of great humor, integrity and personality. To know Buddy was to love him.

Devoted family man and Christian, he will be missed by all of his apartment buddies

May God bless his beautiful soul

Rob Johnston

Rob Johnston - March 08, 2025 at 09:53 AM

ST

“Rita, What joys and fun I had with Buddy and with the two of you. He always made me laugh, yet was wonderful to talk with when advice was shared. We helped each other during our years in association management. He was special.

I can imagine the grief and loss you are experiencing now, having gone through it personally 28 years ago. You will always remember and miss him but you will also always feel blessed for the days, nights and years you spent with each other. Thank God for the memories you made together.

Be still and feel God with you.

Sallie Terrell

Sun City Center, FL (formerly Lexington, KY)

Sallie Terrell - March 07, 2025 at 10:53 AM

LU

“ I will miss my dear sweet neighbor Buddy but I know I will see him again in Heaven! He was always happy and cheerful and loving when I saw him. He was a Child of God. Dear Rita, Kilby and Kayleigh I am praying for God to Comfort you all during this time. I Love You! Sincerely, Lucinda

Lucinda - March 02, 2025 at 06:18 PM

TM

Always a ray of sunshine. He will be missed but never forgotten. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. Love always The Mason family.

ted and Kellie Mason - March 03, 2025 at 06:28 PM