

## Obituary

(Lois Patricia (Pat) Carson O'Connell)

Lois Patricia (Pat) Carson O'Connell, age 87, of Crystal River, FL, passed away March 21, 2020 peacefully, in her sleep, at home in Crystal River, FL on her birthday. She was adored and will be deeply missed by her family. Pat was born March 21, 1933 in Ann Arbor, MI to Arthur Kimball Carson and Sylvia Vera (Tauck) Carson. Pat was a caring, devoted and loving wife to her husband of 66 years in which her husband, Ronald O'Connell recently passed away this January. She dedicated her entire life to her husband and six children until she was no longer able to do so. Pat cared for her family through the 20 years Ron served in the U.S. Air Force as a Pilot. When Ron retired from the Air Force in 1972 they moved to St. Petersburg, FL. Some years later Pat and Ron moved to Crystal River and started O'Connell Financial. She was a member of the St. Benedict Catholic Church, and assisted Ron during his continued services as a Search and Rescue Pilot for the U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Civil Air Patrol. Pat and Ron were a team and together, they were one. Pat's life was focused on raising the children and supporting her husband through his services. This allowed Ron to focus on the family business aspect, and civil services where he performed financial and heroic deeds, including saving lives.



Pat was a very talented woman with the "gift of song". She was voted "most talented" in high school, and was lead singer in Operettas. She continued singing with the military wives while they were stationed in various military bases throughout the US and Europe. She was talented in many ways as she also played the piano and was an artist. She would paint portraits with acrylic paints and they looked exactly like their subjects. She mentored her children in music and art, taking care of her kids on a daily basis, keeping them in school, helping with homework, making sure they were clothed, fed and healthy, she was their "designated driver" to the many after school extra curricular activities.

Pat was challenged as a military wife, taking care of the six children while Ron was serving in the military. She dedicated her entire life for her family, including taking care of Ron's Grandfather and Father in their elderly years. With her artistic talents, she mentored Michael and Brian whom both are very talented artists; with her gift of song and expertise on the piano, she mentored Mark in his singing; and with her continued encouragement, Debbie became a beautiful ballerina, Karen excelled in swimming, and Sharon was an outstanding French horn player.

Twelve years ago Pat began struggling with dementia in which Ron refocused his elderly years and dedicated his entire time taking care of Pat. Pat is now free of this terrible disease called dementia and has been called home. We pray she is now the newest member of the Angels Choir singing to our Lord!

Survived are her Children: Michael & wife Clara, Debra, Brian, Karen & husband Michael Byram, Sharon, Mark, eight (8) Grandchildren, six (6) Step-Grandchildren, four (4) Great Grandchildren, and eight (8) Step-Great Grandchildren.

Family will be receiving friends and extended family on Monday, March 23, 2020 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Brown Funeral Home in Lecanto, FL 352-795-0111. Mass will be offered at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at St. Benedict Catholic Church in Crystal River, FL. Burial will follow at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, FL where she will be joined with her husband.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have remained faithful" – 2 Timothy 4:7

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”- 1 Corinthians 2:9

To leave a special message for Ron’s family, please visit: [www.BrownFuneralHome.com](http://www.BrownFuneralHome.com).