



## Patty Gibbs - Walter

August 31, 1953 - May 25, 2012

Patty Gibbs-Walter, 58, died Friday, May 25, 2012 in Kearney. A memorial service will be held 10:30 AM, Thursday at Faith United Methodist Church in Kearney. The Rev. Michelle Reed will officiate. Interment will be 3:30 PM at Republican City Cemetery. Visitation will be 5-7pm, Wednesday at O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home in Kearney. Cremation will take place following the visitation. Memorials are suggested to VFW Post 759 of Kearney or the Kearney Area Concerned Citizens. On-line condolences may be shared at [osrfh.com](http://osrfh.com). O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. She was born on August 31, 1953, in Alma, Nebraska to Norman and Betty (Voight) Gibbs. She lived in Republican City until 1966 when the family moved to Kearney where she graduated from Kearney High School in 1971. In November 1971 she married Terry Walter and moved to Lexington. In 1990 she moved back to Kearney and in 1994 met her honey Curt Bauer. Since 1997 she was employed at Crop Production Services as the "Office Mommy." During this time she also was employed part time at Central Financial Services as a secretary and at Bauer Repair as an office manager. She was involved with Kearney Area Concerned Citizens since 1996 organizing and preparing the annual Thanksgiving dinner where she was known as the "Potato Queen." She was a devoted mother, "honey," daughter, sister, aunt, and friend. Her dad nicknamed her "Doc" at a very young age, which she lived up to by spending her life taking care of other people. There was not a day that passed where she did not put others before herself.

Growing up as a tomboy she loved riding horses and helping her daddy at the service station. She was the coach of her daughter's softball team and was a Sunday school teacher for her son's class. It did not matter what type of occasion it was when family or friends gathered, she was always enjoyed by others with her quick wit. She greeted everyone with a hug and always made everyone feel special. She surrounded herself with teddy bears and family keepsakes, which meant a lot to her. She enjoyed Storm hockey, watching bullriding, and celebrating life with family and close friends. She will be deeply missed by her Honey, Baby Girl, Little Buddy, nieces, nephews, sister-in-law, family, and friends. She was a member of the Faith United Methodist Church and supporter of the VFW Post 759. Survivors include daughter, Michele "Baby Girl" Walter of Arlington, Virginia; son, Ryan "Buddy" Walter of Lincoln, Nebraska; fiancé and honey, Curt Bauer of Hildreth, Nebraska; niece Kristi Gibbs and special friend Jack Gleason of Kearney, Nebraska; nephew Kurt Gibbs and wife Jill of Hastings, Nebraska; nephew Lanny "Goob" Gibbs and wife Pam of Kearney, Nebraska; sister-in-law, Shirley Gibbs of Republican City, Nebraska; and numerous great-nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and brother Kenneth "Bud" Gibbs.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Patty Gibbs - Walter*

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ *Please accept my condolence for the loss of Patty, a remarkable and giving person. While I only had the pleasure of meeting her a handful of times, each occasion was memorable. Her ability to make instant friends -- with laughter -- was admirable. Her spirit lives on through her incredible daughter.*

**Andy Doyle** - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM



“ *There are no words to express the pain of a mother gone. She put a smile on everyone's face when they met her and when we think of her another smile comes. She lives here on earth in the hearts of many. It has been said the beginning date and ending date are not important it's the dash between those dates. Her dash was filled with the love she gave and love she received. I know she will be missed by many.*

**Madeline Simpson** - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM



“ *My condolences to your and your family Michelle. It appears your Mom lived a full and happy life, which was cut way too short. May your healing process dissipate sooner than later, so that you may smile again as you reflect on your memories. It is rare to have a Mom as your friend, which is readily apparent from the utube photos. May she rest in peace.*

**Bernice Yee** - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

BC

“ Unfortunately I never had the opportunity to meet Patty in person, although we talked almost daily on the phone. I loved to hear her cheerful voice when she answered the CPS phone. We never saw each other but we always complimented each other on our looks that day. She'd say my hair looked great or that color was great on me. What a cheerful, happy person she was. I will miss those conversations with her dearly. My heart goes out to her family, including her CPS family in Kearney.

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**Brenda Craft** - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

SS

“ Michelle and Ryan, after listening to the two of you at the service, God has blessed you, for you will have Your Mom's spirit with you forever. The guiding light and the love she gave you will ALWAYS be there. Hope, faith and love was your mom. Believe forever!

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**Sam Sharpe** - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

KP

“ To Patty's family, We were shocked and saddened to hear of your mother, and your "Honey's ' passing. We knew her best as such a wonderful, faithful daughter to our dear friend (as well as Ken's co-worker) Norm. She loved her family so much and she lit up the room with her sparkle. That sparkle will make heaven a little brighter, and will twinkle in your memories. May God keep you, and hold you through this time of sadness and loss. You are in my prayers.

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**Ken and Mary Purdy** - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

SW

“ I have only spoke to Patty on the phone (working with me in the payroll dept at CPS in Loveland, CO)... but what a sweet lady! She will be deeply missed, she was one of a kind! My thoughts and prayers go out to family...

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**Stephanie W.** - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

JF

“ I am so very sad for the loss. I never had a chance to meet Patty in person, but we had planned to meet this fall when I went to WI. I am sad that day wont happen. Patty was such an upbeat cheerful person every time we talked. I knew she had to have outer beauty just hearing the inner beauty she had. May God bless all of you during this very difficult time! My thoughts and prayers are with you!  
Jodie Freeberg Loveland Products/CPS

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**Jodie Freeberg** - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

DA

“ Our thoughts and prayers go out to Patty and her family. Patty will always be remembered for her dedication to family and co-workers. She always was very consciosus and fully engaged in everything she did. Her efforts and smile will be missed.

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**Dave** - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

LW

“ Michele - David and I are so sorry for your loss. I know your mom meant the world to you. You were blessed to have her in your life and you will carry her with you forever. I know she will be missed by many. Please know that you are also loved by many. Big hugs - Lois & David

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**Lois & David Wye** - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

TF

“ *Patty was one of the first people we met in Kearney because my husband (Clayton "Bruce" Willis) was hired as a driver where she worked. It was always fun to see her again & say "Hi" at the community Thanksgiving dinners. We will miss her smiling face. Many prayers & blessings to the family in this hour, and always. The LORD is near to all who call upon Him - it's never too much for Him to hear your voices again & again. May His arms hold you close always.*

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**The Willis Family** - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

JF

“ *There are some things that never, ever leave us. A Mother's love is one of them. She will be with you in spirit and in heart forever. With Great Sympathy, Joan Marshman & Family P.S. If I can do anything at all please let me know.*

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**Joan Marshman & Family** - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

JK

“Michelle, Ryan and Bauer, When I started working for CPS back in 2000 (UAP back then)...little did I know that I would meet one of my very dear and best friends. My mom #2, as she would say. I could confide in her. There are so many memories with her. When the tornadoes came through Kearney a few years ago, there we were outside watching it all. And when the storms got really close, we were one foot in and one foot out of the vault. Then when it was over, I went to go check my place out for damage. On the way back to the office I said to my wife "let's go check out Patty's place". Sure enough, her apartment was barely there. That was the longest drive back to the office that day. When I got there, I told the guys, then went to find Patty. She was on the phone with you, Bauer, and she turned to look at me. All I could say was "Patty you need to go home". Later on she would tell me that the look on my face said it all. We would talk about that night quite often. When I decided to leave CPS, Patty was the first to tell. I said "Patty, I'm thinking about buying a bar back home". She looked at me and said "Gonna be an awful long commute ain't it". The weeks went on, and she realized that I was serious, and one day she asked me to come in the copier room. I went in and she shut the door behind her. Now, around the office, if you are in a small room with the door shut, and its just you and Patty, pretty sure someones geting their butt chewed. It wasn't like that at all. She looked at me and said " I'm sure gonna miss the hell out of you". And that was it...short, sweet and to the point... the Patty way. Gonna miss that girl. I

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**Jake Klein** - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

CC

“Dear Curt, Michelle & Ryan: Steve & I are so very sad about Patty and we are thinking of all of you. She was very special, we loved her sense of humor & how she always greeted us with a "hug". There are probably no words now to console you. We will miss her & we loved her. She is a special "Angel" & is at peace.

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**Char Christensen** - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

SG

“ Please accept my deepest condolences for the loss of your dearly beloved mother (Patty) during this most difficult time. May her entire family draw comfort from the promises made to us by our very loving creator Jehovah God. In John 5:28,29 & Rev 21:4,5 he promises to bring Patty back to life in the resurrection right here on earth in the very near future and end all sickness, suffering and death forever.

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**Susan George** - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

CS

“ I share the shock & sadness of countless people whose lives were touched by Patty. She loved life and shared that love with so many others by helping, caring, sharing and bringing smiles into their lives. She brought immeasurable joy to us and will be missed so much by our family. Michele, Ryan & Curt-Keep the wonderful memories of her in your hearts to help you carry on. You are in my every thought and prayer. God gave her peace without suffering and she is safe in His arms. Heaven is richer! Love you Patty...I am grateful that you made my life richer on earth!

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**Claire Sharpe** - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

KV

“ My deepest sympathies to all of Patty's family and friends during this difficult time. You are in my thoughts and prayers. I know that she meant so much to so many people. She had a very positive impact on everyone she encountered.

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**Kate Valish** - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

YH

“ Little did I know that when I met you in 1994 that I had met such a special person that would change my life for the next 18 years. You were absolutely the most beautiful, interesting, fun loving , sincere person I could hope for. Not a day has passed since then that I didn't think of you without smiling!! I will always cherish every single minute we spent together, you were my whole world. I am going to miss you more than you could ever imagine, especially your loving hugs and your "I love you honey" when you would call. The hurt is so great right now I can't even begin to describe it, but I know that someday we will be together again. I love you more ... Your Honey

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**Your Honey** - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

CM

“ So long Linus..... Our relationship has lasted forty-five years... since we met in Mr. Henderson’s Social Studies class in October, 1966. We were thirteen. I was the new kid in school. You invited me to have lunch at Kaufmann’s with one of your friends. We spent our lunch money on what you called “M&M Mints.” A few months later, we were not only neighbors, but we were best friends. We did everything together. It was hard to tell who was in whose house. I remember sleeping over, many nights at your house. You had two beds in your room. We shopped at Kaufmann’s for cutoffs, and also went to Hellman’s for the really good clothes. We practiced cartwheels and hand-stands in your front yard. When we were not trying to get the cute, older, neighbor boy’s attention, or trying to con your Dad into taking us, in the bed of his old truck, down to the A&W for a soft ice-cream cone or a float. We slowed down long enough to watch The Monkee’s on Monday night’s. You liked Davey. I liked Peter. In the ninth grade we expanded our friends: Mike, Gaby, Joe, Marilyn, Claudia, Scott and Jim. And, of course, Ron and Rob. We switched from those mints to eating at Reddy’s Grocery. It was Dr Pepper and Barbecued Fritos, and just enough money left to buy a another package of bubble gum with those coveted Monkee’s trading cards. We spent our Friday night’s at the Youth Center, dancing and then sneaking-out early, before one of our parents picked us up. Saturday morning’s, we hiked up to the bowling alley. Life was wonderful. It would soon change, when my family moved to Washington in May, 1968. When I learned of your passing, was the same feeling I had that day long ago, when we parted. We were separated again, ironically, around the exact time of the year. Even though we had traveled very different paths, we never forgot each other. You were the first person, who I knew loved me, other than my parents. We saw each other only three times after that. You are a bright, shining star in my life. The best part of you has been left in your children and into the souls of us, lucky enough to cross your path. I love you, Patty..!! Rest well. Charlie Brown

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Cheri (Davis) Miller - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

JS

“ *May God comfort you and your family @ this time. You have my deepest sympathy.*

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**Joy(Raasch) Schluntz** - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

DP

“ *My sincere condolences to Michelle, Ryan & Curt. Patty was a great friend, and a true caregiver. I loved her dearly and will always miss her..... Cherish the wonderful memories as I know there are many! She was one of a kind, and I am so thankful to have known her.*

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**Dianne Paris** - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

AJ

“ *She was an amazing lady that touched so many lives, it was such a pleasure to have been one of those who got to know her. She will be missed by many.*

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**Al & Jeneane** - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

YG

“ Mom...our hearts hurt more than you could ever imagine. I know you didn't want to leave us behind. You always were so much better at taking care of other people than you were at taking care of yourself. You were the foundation of this entire family and you've left behind countless people who loved you. You had the ability to make everyone you met feel unique - like they had their own special relationship with you. As a little girl, I remember you staying home with me - playing Barbies (although I always got made at you for "not playing right"), Strawberry Shortcake dolls, playing Chinese checkers, and reading me stories. I remember all the different voices you'd use when you read me *Bambi Gets Lost*....I will treasure that book forever and remember your voice as you read it to me. As I grew up, you supported my every ambition. No matter what I did - even when I made mistakes and tested your patience - you supported me and made me confident in your love for me. I always always knew that if I needed you for anything, any time, you'd drop everything and run to me. I don't know how to navigate my life without you. You were the world to Ryan, Curt, and me. The sun, moon, and stars were all wrapped up in you. I ache to think of all the things in our lives that you won't be here for. And I pray with all my heart that you somehow make your presence known to us, especially when we need you the most. I love you...more... Your baby girl....

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**Your Baby Girl** - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

CO

“ My heart is so heavy with sadness! Michelle, Ryan & Curt.....you are in my every thought & prayer. We have lost a priceless friend & very special part of our family! She was very special to all of us. Patty was that "silent" Good Samaritan - She cared deeply for everyone & did all that she could possibly do to show her love & concern in so many ways. She was a very strong woman & could hold everyone & everything together no matter what the circumstances!! There is no way to put into words how much we will miss you Patty! God only takes the best! She is now with the loved ones that have gone before us & at peace with our Heavenly Father. Rest is Peace Patty - thanks for the wonderful memories - We Love You!!

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**Cindy Oates** - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM