



Kathryn Sue Foley

February 17, 1943 - January 28, 2026

Kathryn Sue Foley

(nee Wagoner)

Age 82, passed away on January 28, 2026. Sue was born on February 17th, 1943, in Yakima, Washington, to Ward and Lorene Wagoner. She lived in Washington until she was seven, when her family moved to Flippin, Arkansas. She met her husband of 57 years there, Edward Patrick Foley, and married on August 18th, 1968, in Mountain Home, Arkansas. They started their lifelong business partnership in Pat's father's liquor store on the state line in Missouri, moving to Illinois in the years to follow, eventually opening their own business in Essex, Illinois. They have run The Essex Inn for 48 years together. Sue could be found daily grilling burgers and entertaining customers. She never met a stranger and loved to play euchre and cheer for opposing local sports teams to light up local fans. If you were lucky enough, you could catch her on the dance floor doing her own hillbilly stomp.

She is survived by her devoted husband, Pat, and their two children, Mary Michele (Matthew) Cannon and their two children, Jack and Caitlin, of Naperville, Illinois, and Ward Edward (Andrea) Foley and their four children, Michael, Samantha, Christopher, and Mary, of Essex, Illinois. Also surviving siblings are Jimmy (Sue) Wagoner of Flippin, Arkansas, and Tina (David) Kisdied of Heber Springs, Arkansas.

She was preceded in death by her parents and three brothers, Shug, Leon, and Mickey.

In lieu of funeral arrangements, the family is respecting Sue's wishes and will be spreading her ashes where her parents are buried in Yellville, Arkansas.

Memorial donations can be directed to Lightways Hospice, Joliet.

For more information and to visit Kathryn's online guestbook, please visit www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com or find us on Facebook.

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory

401 E. Main St., Braidwood, 815-458-2336

www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com

Tribute Wall

SF

“ We are so very sorry to hear of Sue's passing. We have so many good memories of enjoying a meal and a drink in the Essex Inn. A fun day was had by all the day the lights went out and Sue was serving the cold drinks. Rest in peace. Ron and Sharon Fitzpatrick

Sharon Fitzpatrick - March 07 at 06:24 PM

LM

“ Sending many prayers and condolences to Pat and the Foley family. May she rest in peace. So sorry for your loss, Lynne & Walt Mahaffay, Grundy Supply

Lynne Mahaffay - February 07 at 12:06 PM

DT

“ A very sweet lady with a beautiful smile and a deep love for her husband Pat and her kids. My family always loved to see Sue and Pat when they came to our place of business. My sympathy to Pat and her family. She was a hard worker and a very beautiful lady. -- Dick Tyler

Dick Tyler - January 31 at 07:16 AM

AM

“ My condolences to Pat and his family. Sue will definitely be missed. I enjoyed her friendship and smiles. The best burgers I have ever eaten.

Amy Martin - January 31 at 02:07 AM

MC

“ Sue was always such a sweet lady! Always had her great smile! RIP Sue! Prayers to Pat and the family!



Mary M Chaney - January 30 at 08:00 PM

LP

“ Our family always enjoyed a burger and good conversation with Sue when we would stop in. She will be deeply missed by us, but I'm sure she is now enjoying a good conversation with Tom. Hugs - The Tom Buckley Family

Lisa Patchett - January 30 at 04:21 PM

JB

“ Sue, the life you lived here in this world was about as good as it gets and that is worthy of much respect. Sincere condolences to Pat and the rest of the family.

Jim Blogg and sons.

Jim Blogg - January 30 at 03:07 PM

VF

“ Never knew Sue without a smile on her face! RIP Sue, deepest sympathy to Pat and family.

Denny Sartore and Valerie Fox

Valerie Fox - January 30 at 12:07 PM

LD

“ *Coco and I always enjoyed meeting Sue at the Post Office, where she entertained with a smile and stories of her youth. She always had an ear scratch for Coco. Our visits will be missed.*

Linda Dvorak - January 30 at 11:02 AM

CM

“ *Barry and I are so sorry for your loss! May God comfort your family.*

The Milliron's

Cindy Milliron - January 29 at 10:04 PM

KM

“ *Prayers to Pat and Family, I lived in Essex for 30 years and will always remember Sue's smiling face and her great burgers.*

Kevin Maguire - January 29 at 09:27 PM

BB

“ *I enjoyed chatting with Sue. I will miss her.*

Beth Bailey - January 29 at 08:26 PM

CV

“ *Sue was a wonderful person, always smiling. Thoughts and prayers for the friends and family.*

Craig Votta - January 29 at 07:46 PM

TM

“ R.I.P. Sue 🙏 Prayers To Pat and Family 🙏
♥️ Tina & Sons



Tina McCorkle - January 29 at 07:08 PM



“ Our condolences to all. Sue is embedded into many of my memories of growing up in Essex. She was always kind to me. We are so sorry for your loss.

Tracy Selock - January 29 at 06:09 PM

SV

“ To the family I'm so very sorry for your loss

Susan Vining - January 29 at 04:04 PM

CP

“ My condolences to Sue's family. She was a good friend to me spent a lot of bar hopping with her. Never a dull moment when Sue was around!!! Even got her to take a vacation to Denver with the girls what a shocker. I loved Sue and I will miss her❤️❤️❤️

chris phillips - January 29 at 01:19 PM

RW

I did Sue's hair for many years at my salon in Braidwood. She was a lovely lady.💙🙏💙

Rosa Lee Wicks - January 29 at 05:54 PM

RS

Sue and Pat were always the people to stop by and see when out west! Sue was always the life of the party ad loved hearing stories of her "Razorbacks"

When ever Merle and Arlene Ditus were around us we always came to Pat and Sues for burgers and laughs; our sympathy for Pat and their family .

Jim and Rose Swanson-Bradley,II

rose swanson - February 01 at 12:46 PM

MM

My deepest condolences go out to you Pat and your children. Although I only met Sue a few times over the years, Ralph, my husband knew her well since he leased some of your property for hunting for many years. I do remember coming to the tavern and enjoying the awesome burgers. You definitely had the BEST tavern burgers and fries! I can only hope that Ralph and Sue are on the other side and catching up those days back then. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.

Mary Lou Meyers (Gicla)

Mary Lou Meyers - February 24 at 04:23 PM

TD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Tim Duran - January 29 at 01:05 PM

TD

“ RIP Sue you will be missed..

Tim Duran - January 29 at 01:04 PM

DS

“ *Thoughts & Prayers to Pat and to Sue's entire family! Sue was always so friendly anytime I stopped in for Ice Cold One & a burger!*

Dean Shepherd - January 29 at 12:54 PM