



## Patrick "Pat" James Nellis

June 25, 1959 - February 20, 2020

Patrick "Pat" James Nellis, 60, of Spirit Lake passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, February 20, 2020 at Lakes Regional Healthcare in Spirit Lake. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, February 27, 2020 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Spirit Lake. Burial will be held in the St. Margaret's Cemetery in Spirit Lake. Visitation will be held from 5-7 p.m. on Wednesday at the Schuchert-Lentz Funeral Home in Spirit Lake.

Pat was born on June 25, 1959 to Peter and Helen (Stattelman) Nellis in Spirit Lake. He graduated from Spirit Lake High School in 1977. Pat worked several jobs over his career but the one he took the most pride in and enjoyed the most was working for the school district for 20 plus years as the Middle School Custodian. He also worked for Village West, Holiday Inn and mowed yards. In Pat's free time he enjoyed collecting and learning about trains. Over the years he has accumulated a large collection of trains and memorabilia. He also enjoyed watching the Iowa Hawkeyes and Wheel of Fortune. He looked forward to his trips downtown and to the Breakfast Barn to enjoy breakfast and conversation with anyone he would run into.

Pat was member of St. Mary's Catholic Church where is was a proud member of Knights of Columbus Council 5043. He was also a past member the Spirit Lake Jaycees.

He is survived by his sister Jane Cunningham of Spirit Lake; brother Bob Nellis of Milford; nieces and nephews, Rayna, Gina, Jodi, Kent, Kelly, Amy, Joe and several great nieces, nephews and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, sister Judy and brothers Rich and Ken.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Margaret's Cemetery

Spirit Lake, IA 51360

# Previous Events

## Service

FEB 27. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church

1005 Hill Ave.

Spirit Lake, IA 51360

<http://www.stmarysspiritlake.org>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Robinson Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis*



---

**Robinson Funeral Home** - February 26, 2020 at 10:16 AM

JD

“ *I remember Pat from my days in elementary and middle school. He was always a welcoming and kind individual. With a warm smile, he never hesitated to open the gym early, even happy to take a shot or two with us. Out of all of the people who served the Spirit Lake school system, he is one person that I will always remember.*

---

**John Doe** - January 14, 2021 at 12:53 PM

JS

“ *A lovely memory of reunion. Blessed be, Judy McGeorge Smith*



---

**Judy Smith** - March 31, 2020 at 11:20 PM

JH

“ Johnny Huntsinger lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis



Johnny Huntsinger - March 09, 2020 at 06:18 PM

GK

“ Gary Kastrup lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis



Gary Kastrup - March 02, 2020 at 02:15 PM

DH

“ Dale Hanna lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis



Dale Hanna - February 29, 2020 at 08:55 AM

PB

“ Paul Bakke lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis



Paul bakke - February 27, 2020 at 06:47 PM

BW

“ *Bev Wittler lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis*



---

**Bev Wittler** - February 27, 2020 at 06:10 PM

MB

“ *Working in the yard about ten years ago and a stranger walking by stops to visit. About an hour later, he made his way back home after one of his daily walks. My first impression: What a kind man with a gift of gab (like me). Seems like we had a hundred or more of those visits. It appears that there were no strangers to Pat. I'm sure that he's in good company now. Condolences to his family and many friends. Mark Brown, Spirit Lake*

---

**Mark Brown** - February 26, 2020 at 04:57 PM

KP

“ *Kathy Perkins lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis*



---

**Kathy Perkins** - February 25, 2020 at 03:08 PM

CJ

“ *Cathy Johnson lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis*



---

**Cathy Johnson** - February 25, 2020 at 01:58 PM

JN

“ I am very sorry for the loss of Pat. I was lucky enough to cross paths with him a couple months ago and it was great to talk to him and see his smile.

---

**Jeff Newell** - February 25, 2020 at 10:58 AM

BG

“ I am so sorry to hear of Pat's passing. I got to know Pat when I was working in the Middle School lunchroom. He was such a caring person, always had a smile for everyone, loved to visit, & loved his job of keeping the school in tip top shape. My prayers & sympathy to his family & may the many memories give you comfort.



*Bonnie Goebel*

---

**Bonnie Goebel** - February 24, 2020 at 11:32 PM

RS

“ I got to know Pat while coaching Middle School sports. Pat was always kind, friendly and conscientious of his work. He would always ask if everything was okay or if I needed anything. He truly was a kind soul. Once I met Pat, he always treated me like we'd know each other our forever, always making time for conversation. Barbie knew Pat growing up as a neighbor in Spirit Lake. She echoes my thoughts saying he was the same growing up - always friendly, very nice. May he rest in peace. We pray the peace of God comforts and surround his family.  
*Roland and Barbie Schmidt*

---

**Roland Schmidt** - February 24, 2020 at 08:29 PM

CS

“ My deepest sympathy to the family of "Pat" Nellis. Pat was such a wonderful, caring person. He always found the time to speak to you and ask how your day was going. I worked with Pat at Village Resorts and remember all our chats. He was a hard worker and always seemed to enjoy what he was doing. RIP dear Pat. I will keep you and your family in my prayers.



---

**Charlene (Erickson) Smythe** - February 24, 2020 at 05:17 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis.



---

February 24, 2020 at 02:42 PM

KS

“ Kerry Ingwersen Sikora lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis



---

**Kerry Ingwersen Sikora** - February 24, 2020 at 12:04 PM

TK

“ Theresa Baird Kuiper lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis



Theresa Baird Kuiper - February 24, 2020 at 08:45 AM

DL

“ So sorry to here of our friend Pat's passing! Mary & I will sure miss visiting with Pat and his great sense of humor! R.I.P. good friend!



Dan & Mary Lempiainen - February 23, 2020 at 08:17 PM

GG

“ Georgette Giest lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis



georgette giest - February 23, 2020 at 07:23 PM

GG

sorry to hear of Pat's passing....my thought and prayers to you Jane and family! Pat was a kind and gentle soul!!

georgette giest - February 23, 2020 at 07:26 PM

JC

“ *Julie Christenson lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis*



-----  
**Julie Christenson** - February 23, 2020 at 11:33 AM

BS

“ *Bev Sill lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis*



-----  
**Bev Sill** - February 23, 2020 at 10:16 AM

RF

“ *Randy Fuehrer lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis*



-----  
**Randy Fuehrer** - February 23, 2020 at 01:19 AM

 Debbie  
Durst  
Pavelko

“ *Debbie Durst Pavelko lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis*



-----  
**Debbie Durst Pavelko** - February 22, 2020 at 10:32 PM

DB

“ *Denise Bonsall lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis*



---

**Denise Bonsall** - February 22, 2020 at 10:28 PM

BT

“ *Bruce Thompson lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis*



---

**Bruce Thompson** - February 22, 2020 at 09:57 PM

KF

“ *Ken Farmer lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis*



---

**Ken Farmer** - February 22, 2020 at 09:49 PM

DR

“ *Don And Jean Reed lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis*



---

**Don and Jean Reed** - February 22, 2020 at 08:55 PM

DB

“ Don And Susan Brandl lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis



Don and Susan Brandl - February 22, 2020 at 03:37 PM

BB

“ Brenda Bendixen lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis



Brenda Bendixen - February 22, 2020 at 02:23 PM

BB

Pat was a great person! So much fun to visit with him and see him. He always had a smile on his face. He will be missed by many people. My prayers go to his family at this time.

Brenda Bendixen - February 22, 2020 at 02:26 PM

TO

“ I very much enjoyed our conversations whenever I was working late in my classroom; topics ran from family to schoolkids and sports. Pat wasn't going to break any speed records like his family?, but he was diligent in his care of our school and was always ready for a conversation of uolifting value for myself. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family he will be missed. 🙏🙏🥲



Terry Osgerby - February 22, 2020 at 01:23 PM

RM

“ Pat was always a friendly person willing to do things that others wouldn't. Miss you Pat!

Randy Masad - February 22, 2020 at 12:27 PM

CH

“ From riding on the school bus as children to sweeping the floor after lunch at school as grown-ups I would always call Pat my friend. If ever there was a pillar to our community it was Pat. I am so proud of him A more tender and gentle soul would be hard to find. May God shine upon his face.

cyndi hawn - February 22, 2020 at 12:02 PM

SH

“ Sal Haas lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis



Sal Haas - February 22, 2020 at 12:01 PM

CH

“ Cyndi Hawn lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis



cyndi hawn - February 22, 2020 at 11:59 AM

SS

“ *Sally Scheib lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis*



Sally Scheib - February 22, 2020 at 10:41 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis.*



February 22, 2020 at 10:29 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis.*



February 22, 2020 at 10:19 AM



“ *What a great guy ml. He will be. Missed*



Kathleen Shaw - February 22, 2020 at 10:18 AM

MS

“ *Marci Stoller lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis*



---

**Marci Stoller** - February 22, 2020 at 09:52 AM

MS

*Pat was such a good guy.....always stopped to say Hi and chat when we crossed paths. He was so proud of the work that he did at SLMS and rightly so! He will be greatly missed.*

---

**Marci Stoller** - February 22, 2020 at 09:52 AM

VU

“ *Deepest sympathies to Jane and Bob. Our world changed in about 1957 when the Nellis family moved next door. This past summer I saw the first episode of the Beverly Hillbillies and knew I had to tell Pat. Many fond memories of Pat.*

---

**Vern Underwood** - February 22, 2020 at 09:08 AM

DB

“ *My deepest sympathy Pat road the school bus with us and was in my brothers (Arnie VanPelt) class Pat was a very caring person. God Bless*

---

**Debbie Benton** - February 22, 2020 at 08:59 AM

VU

“ *Extending sympathy to the entire Nellis family and our classmate Jane. On behalf of the SLHS Class of 1968.*

---

**Vern Underwood** - February 22, 2020 at 08:58 AM

PT

“ *Paula E Krogman Tietz lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis*



---

**Paula E Krogman Tietz** - February 22, 2020 at 08:34 AM

JO

“ *I worked with Pat long ago at Village Resorts. What a truly nice guy filled with empathy and respect for others. Pat you definitely left a positive mark on others and left the world better by being the person you were. RIP.*

---

**Jim O'Neill** - February 22, 2020 at 08:30 AM

JB

“ *Jim and Annie Bauer*



---

**jim and Annie Bauer** - February 22, 2020 at 08:18 AM

RV

“ *Roger & Carmen Vigdal lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis*



---

**Roger & Carmen Vigdal** - February 22, 2020 at 08:13 AM

DD

“ *Dan & Shirley Dickinson lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis*



---

**Dan & Shirley Dickinson** - February 22, 2020 at 04:52 AM

BP

“ *Bob And Connie Peters sent a virtual gift in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis*



---

**Bob and Connie Peters** - February 22, 2020 at 12:35 AM

MW

“ *My condolences to Pat's family. He was a mainstay around Spirit Lake and will be dearly missed.*



---

**Mr. Dean Wolterman** - February 22, 2020 at 12:09 AM

DR

“ *Sorry to hear of Pat's passing. Always enjoyed visiting with him.*

---

**Dan & Fawn Rogers** - February 21, 2020 at 09:59 PM

AK

“ So sad to learn of Pat’s death... He was a role model of kindness to our middle school students. We had many chats as he cleaned my classroom, and after Mass at St. Mary’s. We are so sorry to miss his funeral. Our thoughts and prayers for his family... Tom and Annette

-----  
**Annette Kalkhoff** - February 21, 2020 at 09:32 PM



“ Joe Costello lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis



-----  
**Joe Costello** - February 21, 2020 at 09:12 PM

DB

“ Deb Bockman lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis



-----  
**Deb Bockman** - February 21, 2020 at 09:12 PM

CA

“ My sympathy to Pat's family & friends.



-----  
**Cindy VanPelt Axtell** - February 21, 2020 at 09:08 PM

JH

“ Johnny Huntsinger lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis



Johnny Huntsinger - February 21, 2020 at 09:06 PM

RL

“ Rod And Connie Lange lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis



Rod and Connie Lange - February 21, 2020 at 09:02 PM

 Kathy Grienke

“ So sorry to hear about this!! Pat was always good to me while I worked with him at the school. He always would stop to say hi whenever he saw us. He will be missed!! Hugs to his family!! Kathy Grie



Kathy Grienke - February 21, 2020 at 08:56 PM

DK

“ Our sympathies to Pat's family from the whole Doocy family. Pat stopped by many times to visit us. He always said he had us in his prayers. Pat truly has the heart of an angel. He will be missed dearly.

Diana Doocy Koppen - February 21, 2020 at 07:26 PM

DK

“ My condolences to Pat's family. As a brother Knight he was always there with a hello to all and liked to help with the "dirty" ( dishes) work. Think of him every time I will use the dish washer at Church. He will be sadly missed. Dennis Kurth



Dennis Kurth - February 21, 2020 at 07:15 PM

JW

“ John & Deb Walters lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis



John & Deb Walters - February 21, 2020 at 07:11 PM

LH

“ Leon Hanson lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis



leon hanson - February 21, 2020 at 06:58 PM

LL

“ Lisa Lloyd lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis



lisa lloyd - February 21, 2020 at 06:40 PM

BE

“ *Bob And Mary Emgarten lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis*



**Bob and Mary Emgarten** - February 21, 2020 at 06:16 PM



“ *Michael Prescott lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis*



**Michael Prescott** - February 21, 2020 at 06:13 PM

BA

“ *My sympathy to Pat's family. He always stopped to talk and will be missed.*  
*Beverly*



**Beverly Atwell** - February 21, 2020 at 05:58 PM

LW

“ *Lorie Wilson lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis*



**Lorie Wilson** - February 21, 2020 at 05:21 PM

CM

“ *Sending our Love and Sympathy to the family.*



-----  
**Chuck and Donna Tielbur- Milford** - February 21, 2020 at 05:13 PM

PE

“ *Pam Edmunds lit a candle in memory of  
Patrick "Pat" James Nellis*



-----  
**Pam Edmunds** - February 21, 2020 at 05:11 PM

PE

*Pat was a very kind person always said hello when he saw you. My  
prayers for the family*

-----  
**Pam Edmunds** - February 21, 2020 at 05:12 PM

  
Chrissy  
Soole

“ *Chrissy Soole lit a candle in memory of  
Patrick "Pat" James Nellis*



-----  
**Chrissy Soole** - February 21, 2020 at 04:56 PM

TC

“ Pat was an asset to our middle school! He always did his best to keep everything clean and neat. He will be missed, but always remembered!

*Tom Corcoran “Mr. C”*

---

**Tom Corcoran** - February 21, 2020 at 04:33 PM

BR

“ Brad lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Pat"  
James Nellis



---

**Brad** - February 21, 2020 at 04:31 PM

FO

“ Floyd Ogle lit a candle in memory of Patrick  
"Pat" James Nellis



---

**Floyd Ogle** - February 21, 2020 at 04:27 PM

DM

“ I remember Pat from many years ago. What a nice man. Always spoke to you whenever he saw you throughout the years. He will be missed!

---

**Dee Dee McCoy** - February 21, 2020 at 04:07 PM

JJ

“ Pat has been a friend and neighbor for years and my husband worked with him. He was a great friend and He will be greatly missed.



Judy Johnson - February 21, 2020 at 04:01 PM

RN

“ Our deepest sympathies. Pat worked for me many years ago... never a bad word for anybody. May you Rest In Peace . 🙏



Rhonda and David Nelson - February 21, 2020 at 03:59 PM

MP

“ Mavis Palmer lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis



Mavis Palmer - February 21, 2020 at 03:51 PM

RE

“ I first meet Pat through the Jaycees of Spirit Lake... Always visited when you would see him... He would be out for walks and sometime would stop by the house for a summer afternoon on his way back home... I will miss seeing him this summer out for walks... Thought and Prayers to all Pat's family...



Rhonda Edwards - February 21, 2020 at 03:46 PM

Linda Baltzegar

“ *What a wonderful, fun-loving friend we have lost...Always a smile for everyone....Our class of 77 was so lucky to have him as one of our classmates...We will miss you.*



Linda Baltzegar - February 21, 2020 at 03:24 PM



“ *Serenity Prayer 30" Sonnet was purchased for the family of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis.*



February 21, 2020 at 03:15 PM



“ *Janelle Treganza lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis*



Janelle Treganza - February 21, 2020 at 03:03 PM



“ *Esther Irlbeck lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis*



Esther Irlbeck - February 21, 2020 at 02:55 PM

CP

“ Pat cleaned my office when I was school nurse. Always friendly and willing to help in any way. We would often connect at church - he never failed to have an eager hello and share what he had been up too. I will miss that gentle spirit.



Cyndy Powers - February 21, 2020 at 02:42 PM

BW

“ Worked with Pat at the lodge, we would always greet each other in cheech and chong voices, never missed an opportunity to say hi when we saw each other, he will be missed very much and we will see him again in heaven.

Brian Woods - February 21, 2020 at 02:10 PM

RC

“ Pat would always talk to us at the Breakfast Barn. He was always friendly.

Ron and Sharon Crowley - February 21, 2020 at 02:06 PM

SD

So sorry to hear of Pat's Passing. He was such a kind person and I always enjoyed visiting with him. He will be missed.

Sally DeLoss - February 21, 2020 at 08:52 PM

TU

“ Jane and Bob sorry to hear of Pats passing always enjoyed visiting with him also growing up with all the Nellis kids Hugs

Tom and Della Underwood - February 21, 2020 at 02:01 PM

SS

“ Pat was a dear neighbor for many years and loved talking to us every Sunday at the bowling alley.  
Stan and Rhea Sybesma

Stan Sybesma - February 21, 2020 at 01:49 PM

MH

“ Deepest sympathies to Jane and Bob. Pat was a kind and gentle man who loved to visit with everyone. He will be missed.  
Terry and Mary Heidebrink

Mary and Terry Heidebrink - February 21, 2020 at 01:49 PM

JS

“ I remember Pat helping us at school. He always worked hard and had a smile for everybody. May he Rest In Peace. Prayers for his family.  
Judy Stukey

Judy Stukey - February 21, 2020 at 01:42 PM

DB

“ Pat was always happy to see you..I'm sorry to hear of his passing.

My sympathy to his family.

Dayle Broocks



Dayle Broocks - February 21, 2020 at 01:18 PM

NR

“ *Nancy Rickman lit a candle in memory of Patrick "Pat" James Nellis*



Nancy Rickman - February 21, 2020 at 01:08 PM

RM

“ *Our Love and sympathy to Pat's family. We will miss his calls and visits.  
Alan and Reba*



Reba and Alan Munson - February 21, 2020 at 12:55 PM

RA

*Pat was Always Such a Kind and Pleasant Person! Heaven Just gained another Angel!*

Ruth Albrant - February 21, 2020 at 03:57 PM

JR

*So sad to hear of Pat's passing. Sending our sympathy and prayers to Bob and Jane. He was such a kind man and we loved visiting with him whenever we would run into him. He always had a smile and an encouraging word. He will be dearly missed.*

Jim and Charlene Radcliffe - February 21, 2020 at 04:04 PM

MM

*Jane and Bob, We are so sorry to read of Pat's passing. Always a "hello" when we saw him! Knowing he will be missed by many and especially by Jane who always looked after his well being. God bless you and yours. May he Rest In Peace!*

Mari and Bob Mulhern - February 21, 2020 at 05:52 PM

LN

*Lonnie and I spent many years with Pat in Jaycees. He was always one of the first people to volunteer and pitch in wherever needed. He became family to our family and was always excited to see our girls and in later life interested in what each of them were doing. Kind, caring human being who will be greatly missed. Our sympathy to Bob, Jane and their families.*

*Lon & Cheryl Noble*

---

**Lon & Cheryl Noble** - February 22, 2020 at 12:48 AM