IN MEMORIAM

PATRICIA KEIRNAN

Patricia Ann Brunetto Kiernan, a community leader in Verona for over 60 years, died of complications from cancer at Clara Maass Medical Center on May 17.

Pat was born in Montclair on September 5, 1932 to the Honorable Frank J. Brunetto, Jr. and Ellen McGowan Brunetto; her father served with distinction as the municipal court judge in Montclair for 37 years.

Pat taught elementary school before taking time off to raise her family and later studied for a masters' degree in speech pathology. Always a teacher at heart, she encouraged her children to read and to exercise critical thinking skills. She strongly believed that thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world and brought her considerable leadership skills to many projects. She won numerous awards for her devotion to public service, including the Paul Harris Fellowship Award from Rotary International in 2003.

In the 1990s, she founded and managed two notfor-profit consignment businesses, Smull Treasures and, later, Willing Hearts Consignment Shop. Both thrift shops have generated considerable funding for charity over the years. She served on the boards of United Way of North Essex, COPE Counseling Services, and the Verona Garden Club. She was a longtime member of the Montclair Golf Club and loved summers at the shore at her home in Bay Head.



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Pat was married for 44 years to the late Robert E. Kiernan, Jr. and is survived by her sons Robert and his wife Mary Louise of Bronxville, N.Y.; Kevin and his wife Jennifer of Verona; and Chris and his wife Beth of Verona; and her daughter Kelly Largey of Quincy, Mass. in which she lived for over 50 years with the help of her wonderful caregiver, Enid Cummings.