



## Patrick Brian Burris

July 12, 1961 - May 31, 2021

Patrick Brian Burris, age 59, passed into eternal rest on May 31, 2021. Patrick passed away at home in Roswell, NM surrounded by family.

He was born July 12, 1961 in Omaha, Nebraska. Patrick lived a full and wonderful life. He served in the United States Air Force, worked for the Royal Saudi Air Force for about 1 year, and earned his degree in occupational therapy. Patrick worked many places and held many positions, but the one he loved the most was being an instructor at ENMU at the Roswell campus.

He worked with special needs students and helped students learn to live on their own, taught them art and theatre and even how to work with animals.

Patrick was full of life and love and had a special place in his heart for all those that he knew.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents Fred and Ethel Burris and Ace and Elva Still.

He is survived by his mother and father Mary and Jack Burris, his brother and sister-in-law Greg and Tammy, brother and sister-in-law Jerry and Trisha, his niece Ashley and her husband Ryan Bochnowski, nieces and nephews Jackie Burris, Destinie and Kyle Jennings, Grace Thibodeaux, Sierra Burris, Ben Thibodeaux and many great-nieces and great-nephews.

There will be a special service Saturday June 12th at the Spring River Park Zoo at 9 am. A rose bush will be planted in his honor.

He will be dearly missed by all those who knew and loved him.

Please take a moment and share a fond memory or kind expression of

sympathy for Patrick's family at [www.andersonbethany.com](http://www.andersonbethany.com).  
Patrick's tribute was written in his honor by his family.

# Previous Events

## Service

JUN 12. 9:00 AM (MT)

Spring River Zoo  
1306 E. College  
Roswell, NM

# Tribute Wall

LA

“ Mr Burris was kind man help me out a lot when I was in Eastern New Mexico University Roswell taught me Animal caretaking I will miss him Terribly his love for special needs children was special i couldn't done my caretaking of longhorn cattle without him rest in peace my friend always



Laura - May 03, 2025 at 12:16 AM

MA

“ So sad that he is gone, I remember when he was the arts and crafts teacher at ENMU-R he will be missed by all who know and love him

Marla - July 24, 2023 at 11:09 PM



“ Patrick Brian Burris

December 29, 2022 at 05:26 PM

 Brian Lock

“ HI my name is bj lock i was on of mr burris student at enmur for two years i am going to miss him and is jokes and he was there when i need him he knew when my mom passed away and he was there fro me

Brian Lock - April 29, 2022 at 01:29 PM

BB

“ I will always remember Pat's smile and laughter even when he was just a little kid. Optimistic and full of life. Pat maintained that same outlook throughout his life and I will always think of him with that smile with a smile,  
To Mary and Jack, thank you and your family for being in my life for the last 50 years.

*Betty Beagles*

**Betty Beagles** - June 17, 2021 at 08:48 PM

KI

*Patrick Burris amazing man amazing teacher and friend I never had really close friendship with teacher it felt good we very close always made me laugh smile someone talk to.*

**Kates Iphone Ipad** - July 13, 2021 at 04:37 PM

BS

“ I know that Pat is up there sharing jokes with his Unca Joe, laughing and waiting for the rest of friends, families, and pets to come. I remember meeting Pat when he was 15, just the other day. Now he is waiting with the other angels. Big hug and kisses to Pat and family. Love to you all... Bev

**bev still** - June 16, 2021 at 08:15 PM

 Janey Brown

“ Patrick Burris was my animal healthcare teacher and I best teacher I ever had I will miss him dearly and because of him I am starting my own business which I will dedicated to him I love going to the zoo with him I really will miss seeing him on campus but it was fun going to school and being in his class



**Janey Brown** - June 14, 2021 at 09:34 PM

JL

“ *Jennifer Libby lit a candle in memory of Patrick Brian Burris*



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**Jennifer Libby** - June 14, 2021 at 05:21 PM

JL

*Rest in Peace. Great memories of a wonderful man.*

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**Jennifer Libby** - June 14, 2021 at 05:22 PM

AM

“ *Mr. Burris was amazing and so kind but also loved by all the students I will miss him but i know we will come back together in heaven and I'm so sorry for the loss of the family*

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**ashlyn morris** - June 11, 2021 at 04:51 PM

  
Janey  
Brown

*I will miss Patrick Burris he was a very good teacher because of him I am now starting my own business which I can thank him for and he was a very good friend and I will miss him dearly*

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**Janey Brown** - June 14, 2021 at 09:29 PM

RS

“ *Class of 2017 or 2018 my condolences to you and the family so sorry for your loss Patrick was a good person and a great guy good friend he left too soon he's in heaven now watching down on us me all my classmates teachers family friends that knew Patrick Burris he will be missed hopefully one day we all can see him*



richard segura - June 11, 2021 at 01:01 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Patrick Brian Burris.*



June 10, 2021 at 11:44 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Patrick Brian Burris.*



June 09, 2021 at 10:56 PM

ES

“ Evelyn McDonald née st.germain purchased the Guiding Light Bouquet for the family of Patrick Brian Burris.



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**Evelyn McDonald née st.germain** - June 09, 2021 at 08:45 PM

CC

“ Mr. Burris was one of my teachers at ENMU. He was my animal Care instructor in my first year and was my independent living/dorm teacher my second year. He also was a coach for our Special Olympics. My favorite memory of Mr. Burris was when I had my clinicals at the zoo with him. There was a Raven at the zoo that he really liked. In the dorms he was always there for us, to help us with homework, interpersonal relationships or anything else we needed help with. I am very sorry for his family and friends during this difficult time and will continue to pray for all of you.

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**Candice Clark** - June 09, 2021 at 07:34 PM

CC

“ Candice Clark lit a candle in memory of Patrick Brian Burris



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**Candice Clark** - June 09, 2021 at 07:25 PM

ED

“ I used to be in his art class when I was in college and I am in shock that he is gone! My thoughts and prayers are with his family and with everyone that knew him! He will be so missed!



Erin Davis - June 09, 2021 at 04:15 PM

OD

“ I first met Patrick in my senior year of high school in Greece. He was a fellow boarder at Pinewood Schools of Thessaloniki. He became a like brother to me. His smile is forever with me. I wish we could've seen more of each other through the years but I'm grateful for the time we had together. I know he's dancing on the clouds in heaven and I'm looking forward to the day we meet up again. He will forever hold a piece of my heart. RIP my friend till our next reunion in the sky.

Omega Donisi - June 09, 2021 at 11:28 AM

MG

“ Patrick was a good guy. I remember when my daughter resided at ENMU-R and she always spoke highly of Patrick. I really respected this man for his love for students. Patrick fly high my friend see you again in paradise

Michelle Graham - June 09, 2021 at 10:05 AM

A0

“ Amanda Hill Student 08/2012-07/2013 lit a candle in memory of Patrick Brian Burris



amanda hill student 08/2012-07/2013 - June 09, 2021 at 09:28 AM

A0

“ *Mister Patrick Burris*

*Words can't express how hard it is to let go of a leader, role model and most importantly an amazing friend! This gentleman was an amazing soul that I was able to come across from my first and second year of college. Your smile literally lit up the the whole room, ur spunk and jokes were amazing. Just so much to say but honestly and truly your not suffering the pain you went thru. You were definitely a kid at heart and bonded each and everyone in a unique possible way. May God Bless and Deepest Condolences to the Burris family and friends, family, students and most of all the people you have came across thru the years. Will definitely miss you. Rest In Peace*

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**Anastasia Coriz student 07-08 and 08-09** - June 09, 2021 at 09:12 AM

A0

“ *Mister Patrick Burris*

*Words can't express how hard it is to let go of a leader, role model and most importantly an amazing friend! This gentleman was an amazing soul that I was able to come across from my first and second year of college. Your smile literally lit up the the whole room, ur spunk and jokes were amazing. Just so much to say but honestly and truly your not suffering the pain you went thru. You always had an amazing mentorship to your students. It felt you were the kid at heart and loving soul the kids needed at the college. You will never.be forgotten, May God Bless and Deepest Condolences to the Burris family and friends, family, students and most of all the people you have came across thru the years. Will definitely miss you. Rest In Peace*



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**Anastasia Coriz student 07-08 and 08-09** - June 09, 2021 at 09:09 AM

EM

“ Elizabeth Moore lit a candle in memory of Patrick Brian Burris



elizabeth moore - June 09, 2021 at 08:17 AM

BL

“ My name is Brian John Lock (bj) Mr Burris was my teacher and my best friend he took me snow skiing and he took me to Walmart and he told me if you need a ride pickup the phone and he will be there for me and i will miss his jokes and he was there when I just a frist year student at enmur he knew that my mom just passed away in 2011 and he shaw my lows and he pureck me up and he helped me with my homework and second year he took me everywhere he went and he was the greasy teacher ever and I will not forget him in my heart and and fly high and every time I see a jet fighter I will rember him rip prtick Burris ps say hi to my mom for me

Brian John lock - June 09, 2021 at 04:03 AM

SM

“ R.I.P to my greatest teacher I ever had thank you for your services and guide to moving forward and working for my dreams thank you mr.Burris



stephanie martinez - June 09, 2021 at 03:38 AM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Patrick Brian Burris.*



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June 09, 2021 at 03:28 AM



“ *Patrick was my teacher when I went to school in Roswell at the college. He was a great teacher. He will be missed. Rest in peace. My prayers and sympathy go out to his family and friends.*

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**Adam Martinez** - June 09, 2021 at 12:30 AM



“ *He was my teacher in college he also got me out of my Comfort zone. I want to say thank you to him and I want him to take care of my dog named baby and also my horse named graces*

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**meredith Irons** - June 09, 2021 at 12:22 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Patrick Brian Burris.*



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June 09, 2021 at 12:19 AM

MT

“ Patrick was my teacher when I went to school in Roswell at the college. He was a great teacher. What was really unique is that we both shared the same birthday. He will be missed. Rest in peace. My prayers and sympathy go out to his family and friends.

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**Maribel Turkovich** - June 08, 2021 at 11:38 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Patrick Brian Burris.



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June 08, 2021 at 11:10 PM

JG

“ I am celebrating his life not his death cuz he's still alive in paradise I remember when I first came to special services program in 2011-2012 yes at first I didn't quite understand him but he grew on me with his jokes he helped me how to be independent he gave me very good life advices and don't let anyone put me down always stand up for myself and cuz of that I'll always do and I cherish every joke he makes ( but honestly I don't understand jokes) this isn't a goodbye I'll see you again and all the memories we had I will always cherish forever now go take care of animals in heaven and say Hi to Uno and take care of him for me please Love you Mr Burris



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**Jordyn Garcia** - June 08, 2021 at 11:10 PM

MA

“ *Mr. Burris was the kindest man with a soul of gold. He had patience and taught my son to look at the glass half full! We will miss him greatly! He was one of my sons favorite people!*

*Maggie Vicenti son DeVante Vicenti class of 2019 animal healthcare*

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**Maggie** - June 08, 2021 at 10:44 PM

LE

“ *Great teacher a great mandator to every one. He was so kind and funny . He always had a good smile . He always liked to help coach special Olympics. He had a great laugh . He loved the special services students*

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**Leslieswartzell** - June 08, 2021 at 10:37 PM

LS

“ *Great teacher he was doing kind and funny a And always had a smile on his face . He was such a great preson he helped with special Olympics coach me .*

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**Lauren Swartzell** - June 08, 2021 at 10:32 PM

BR

“ *Patrick was an amazing man. I had the privilege of first meeting him when he assisted with the Goddard Band Boosters, then working with him at ENMU Roswell. His love of his job and the students he worked with Will I've in their memories forever.*

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**Brianna** - June 08, 2021 at 10:20 PM

SW

“ Patrick was a great person and missed by many. I am one of his former students at Eastern New Mexico University - Roswell. He used to take me to the Unity Center for dances and other places.

Sunshine Weyer - June 08, 2021 at 10:15 PM

LS

“ Mr Burris was One of the most amazing teachers I've ever had in my life. He taught me how to live on my own but he also taught me what it was like to have a friend when you needed a friend most. He taught me how to be a man and how to grow up and be mature. Mr birth will be forever missed. His laugh was contagious and he was all around funny guy. My most favorite memory was Mr burris was the ski trip to Ruidoso. Rest easy mr b.  
Levi Springer

Levi Springer - June 08, 2021 at 09:52 PM

JM

“ He was an awesome teacher. He was full of wisdom and taught us life lessons. Thank you Patrick for being the best teacher and mentor. May your memory be eternal



Jamie murphy - June 08, 2021 at 09:51 PM

Dawn Willman

“ ..His laugh was loud and his smile was pure..His love was deep, heart of gold and his soul was beautiful! Patrick you meant the world to us all and you will forever be loved beyond heavens gate!! RIP LOVE DAWNY!!



Dawn Willman - June 08, 2021 at 09:40 PM

EG

“ It is my deepest consed to hear what has happen to Mr.BUrris he was an amazing teacher he always care for us students I was his student since 2010 to 2012 I was in Vetenarian assistance program in enmu-r.

One of my best years there Mr Burris was always happy and eager to teach us and always was outgoing and sweet he actually heard me sing at the dorms and told me I should be in American idol he lofted our belive when we never beloved in our selves he always beloved in us to do better and be an amazing person it was an honor to be his students and when I think of him and all my years with him they were the most happys I ever had .



elizabeth Gomez - June 08, 2021 at 09:34 PM

MW

“ Patrick was one of a kind and I am so glad to have known him. My first day on the job at the university, Patrick greeted me with open arms, he was so kind and made me feel so welcome . It was at that moment I knew what a beautiful person he was! I always admired Patrick for the love and passion he had for his career and the students. He made an impact on every student and on me! So blessed to have crossed paths with Patrick! My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends! I love you and will miss you dearly! R.I.P. my dear friend!

Mary Weber - June 08, 2021 at 09:06 PM

 Dawn Willman

Patrick was definitely a blessing to cross paths with!

Dawn Willman - June 08, 2021 at 09:41 PM

LR

“ We are grateful for the opportunity to have met Mr. Burris when our son attended ENMU-R in 2015. Mr. Burris was someone who genuinely cared about his students, always showing a sincere interest in our son's success and well being. Mr. Burris related to our son. He advocated for our son when others were too afraid or thought it would be easier to stay quiet. To this day we are still so thankful for all he did, especially for us parents miles away from our children with different abilities. We had comfort knowing our son was in good hands with Mr. Burris (including, Coach Shaw, who were an awesome duo, examples, leaders, teachers, and the best of friends at ENMU-R.) We last saw Mr. Burris at graduation December 2019. He took the time to join us for a celebratory dinner. Still so positive and making it all about our son, never a word about himself.

Then even after graduation, he remained in touch through social media and was always so happy to see what was new for our son and our family. We will always consider Mr. Burris a friend and cherish the opportunity to have crossed paths with him.

\*Mr. Burris, we have no doubt you will be missed dearly, especially by so many students and their parents. May you receive the blessings of peace, comfort, and eternal life from our Dear Lord. May God bless you, your family, your friends, and all the students you prepared for life.

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**Leo and Katrina Romero** - June 08, 2021 at 08:46 PM

JA

*I am so very saddened by the loss of a fine person, Patrick Burris. Rest in peace, dear Patrick. You will be greatly missed.*

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**Judy Armstrong** - June 09, 2021 at 09:53 AM

KC

*Fly high with God's speed! I don't believe there was a time Patrick was not smiling or laughing. He was greatly loved and respected. I pray the Lord's comfort for his family and friends.*

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**Kim Childress** - June 10, 2021 at 02:57 AM