

Pat Henderson



Patricia Henderson of Bloomington, MN passed away on Friday October 19, 2018 at Fairview Hospital in Edina, Minnesota after a long battle with cancer. Pat traveled the globe to share her lifelong passion for acrosports with people across all different disciplines: from trampoline and tumbling to snow sports, gymnastics to performance artists and anyone in between. She was a coach extraordinaire as well a top-rated international judge.

In 1968 Pat began her gymnastics career while attending South Dakota State University. Pat has represented the USA in approximately 30 countries as a coach, judge and teacher. From 2001 to 2004 she was a member of the FIG Trampoline Technical Committee and received the FIG Silver Recognition in 2005 for her dedication and service. She served as a trampoline and tumbling judge from 1971 through the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece. She is a three-time recipient of the Outstanding Coach of the Year award and Women in Sport award. In 2009 she was Inducted into the USA Gymnastics Hall of Fame for the Lifetime Achievement Award and in 2017 she was honored at the World Acrobatics Society and received the Charlie Pond Service Award. Pat opened her first gymnastics facility in 1976 in Tulsa, Okla., and opened Minnesota Twisters in 1984.

From 1974 to present, Pat has had a national qualifier every year, and many of her athletes were members of the national team and earned individual titles. She has also produced international competitors – world age-group medalists, world team members, one world team bronze medalist, two world team gold medalists, and the 2004 Olympic Team alternate. She has been a member of the USA coaching staff, as well as a U.S. World Championships team coach. Throughout the decades, she promoted the sport of Trampoline through demonstrations including multiple shows at The Mall of America, the NFL playoffs & Superbowl, the Hart Ski Show with the US Ski Team, Reach for the Sky events, and the 1991 US Special Olympics Opening Ceremony

Pat was a selfless woman who was always ready and willing to help anyone who needed her, even if she just met them. Her knowledge was vast, her reach was wide, her heart was enormous, and she will be missed by all. She is survived by her sons, Jesse and Nathan, her daughter-in-law Heather, and her grandson Nathan II. She also leaves behind her sister Lynn, brother Roger and other beloved family members.