



### **MEET PAT FRIEND**

If you get a chance to know Pat, you will have made a true friend! Born in Wichita Falls, followed by a quick move to Nacogdoches, Pat considers himself more a native of West Texas since he moved to Amarillo when he was just 8 years old. He went to school there, playing baseball all through high school.

Although Pat's parents moved to Tyler after his dad got a promotion, Pat stayed in West Texas and entered Texas Tech as a freshman because that was the choice of many of his friends. He felt a yearning to move to Austin, though, since most of his family had attended UT and he even had an aunt on the faculty there. Thus, he traded his red and black shirts for burnt orange ones and transferred to the University of Texas where he graduated in 1965.

Pat's first job was working as a computer programmer in Austin, but he moved to DFW after a year to take a job as a programmer for Bell Helicopter just as the Vietnam War escalated. Pat remained in the technology industry for 35 years, doing graduate work in economics at TCU along the way. In the late 1970s Pat managed a computer department for Kansas City Power and Light Company for 4 years—the only time he ever lived outside of Texas (and survived)! But his home state lured him home and he spent the next 26 years working in the Dallas area and living in Rockwall.

As for his bridge background, Pat learned the game in his early 20s from his dad because his father was a good player and had even been president of the East Texas Bridge Association while living in Tyler. With career and family obligations, however, Pat didn't play much bridge until he retired and moved to Heritage Ranch in 2010. After a 45-year hiatus from the game, Pat refreshed his skills by playing party bridge and then venturing into a couple of small duplicate games. He joined ACBL in 2018 and Dan Woodward took him under his wing, mentored him, and introduced him to the McKinney Duplicate Bridge Club where he still plays on Thursdays with Robert Neal.

Meanwhile his so-called "retirement" has kept Pat busy with several hobbies and volunteer opportunities. He has embraced three major interests (other than bridge). Those hobbies are music, cars, and civic service. He loves cars and owns a Porche 911. This led him to another hobby—helping people sell their used cars. He stated that most "people hate the process and I kind of like it... helping them when I can."

Pat's involvement with music was pure fate! It came after a chance meeting of legendary guitarist Ken Wheeler. Because Pat has become an instant "friend" after stopping on the highway to help Ken and his wife during her medical emergency, Ken showed his gratitude by giving Pat free guitar lessons. Little did Pat know at the time that his chance encounter with Wheeler would change the course of his life. From basic guitar lessons, Pat graduated to the steel guitar and learned under the tutelage of "Reece" Anderson, another music icon. Pat was more adept on the steel guitar and has spent almost 11 years (and counting) playing at Top Rail Cowboy Church in Greenville. "I'm still doing it—over 800 services and 50,000 miles of traveling back and forth to Greenville." He is also a proud member of the Bound for Glory group of 7 men who play traditional and gospel music for seniors living in far north Dallas.

In the arena of civic service, Pat served on the Fairview Planning and Zoning Commission for six years. At Heritage Ranch Pat volunteers as the sound technician for the Theatre Guild and Chorale groups. He also serves on the board of the McKinney Duplicate Bridge Club. "I believe in giving back. I think it's an important role for a citizen," he says.

Pat has two children, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. He is confident that he is meant to be here contributing to various communities. "I've been run over by a car, hit by a different car, hit again-this time by a jet ski, and later hit by a deer while riding a motorcycle. All of these incidents resulted in half a dozen surgeries. I survived them all!" And we're glad he did.

*Submitted by Nancy Connors, Secretary McKinney Duplicate Bridge Club*