



Sonnevelt, Ethel Patricia 'Pat' (Rausenberger)

1929-2025

[By Lexi Flusche](#)

on May 14, 2025

Ethel Patricia Sonnevelt, better known to her family and friends as Pat, was born on Jan. 14, 1929, to Bert Sanders and Mabel Lucile Rausenberger in Ryan, OK. Mabel passed away on July 21, 1930, and Bert then married Lou Ella Jones on March 27, 1937. Ethel passed away on Tuesday May 6, 2025. She met her husband, Robert Bob Sonnevelt and they were married June 28, 1963. They then settled in Bridgeport in 1985 with their three children, daughter, Beckie Wardlow (Bridgeport), son, Ricky Lee Sonnevelt (Saginaw) and son, Stanley Wayne Sonnevelt (Dallas, GA). Pat was preceded in death by her husband, Bob; brothers, Clarence

Franklin Sanders (Conroe) and Troy Sanders (Anadarko, OK). She is survived by her sister, Betty Echols (Wichita Falls) and her three children. Pat leaves behind seven grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews. Pat worked at Southwestern Bell for 32 years, where she began as a Switchboard Operator. She became a pioneer for working women, earning the right to get certified and become one of the first women Framemen in the industry. She was the first Framemen with Southwestern Bell during her time there. As a member of Telephone Pioneers of America, she fought for women's equality in the labor force. Pat has been a cherished member of First Baptist Church Chico, where she stayed actively involved with the well-being of her church family. Pat loved living on the lake, fishing, skiing, and as we all know, she always enjoyed the wonderful fish fry at the end of the day. She was active at the Springtown Senior Center playing bingo, dominoes, line dancing or just having lunch with her group of friends. Pat's warm heart, big smile and love will forever be cherished and missed by all of her family and friends.

Services will be held on Saturday, May 17, 2025, at First Baptist Church Chico. The family will receive guests at 10 a.m. for the viewing, followed by the memorial service at 11 a.m., followed by the graveside service at East Bridgeport Cemetery. Family and friends are invited to return to First Baptist Church Chico for a potluck lunch at 1:30 p.m. The family requests that flowers be sent to Hawkins Funeral Home in Bridgeport.

Revelations 3:20— "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

Hawkins Funeral Home Bridgeport | (940) 683-2211 | hawkinsfuneralhome.com