

Induction of Pat to the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame
Oct. 21, 1999--Acceptance by Frank

In accepting this honor for Pat, I want to express my appreciation for all the support and efforts of all our friends and the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in recognizing Pat's contribution to ending apartheid in southern Africa and in the struggle to achieve civil rights for a;; U.S. citizens. In particular, I want to thank Anabel Dwyer and Barbara Thibeault who worked so hard to prepare Pat's history for the 1999 Honors Committee of the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame and also for the support of the Peace Education Center and the Michigan State University African Studies Center which were the bases from which we worked.

Borrowing our daughter's Katharine's words "not many people get to change the world." Pat was one of those. As all of the honorees here tonite were part of that group.

In the words of Rev. Frederick Houghton, Pat's brother at her memorial service--"Little did he know what he had unleashed upon the world" when he told Pat of the horrors of apartheid in South Africa and Namibia where he was serving the Episcopal Church and suggested somebody should do something about it.

Our work in civil rights led us to Rust College in Holly Springs, Miss. in 1965. I remember as we left the house at 4 AM to join the Meredith March with Dr. Martin Luther King to Jackson, Miss. Pat sprained her ankle. She made the 10 mile march despite that and the fact that the hem of her skirt raised blisters on both legs because of the march's fast pace.

In Holly Springs Pat initiated educational projects with children--with whom she was very good--and worked with adults on voter registration and job applications.

Looking back, I can't imagine how I kept up with her whether it was handing out informational pamphlets on apartheid, setting up and running display tables or arguing with legislators and university officials to do the right thing regardless of politics.

Her passion for freedom with peace and justice was steadfast and while she would be greatly honored for this recognition of her work--she would be the first to stress that nobody could accomplish anything by themselves alone.

Let me read a few lines from an E-mail from South Africa I just received today from Kgati Sathekge former MSU student. "It is good to keep her spirit alive because she was a good woman. The work we did together gave me some valuable lessons which I will never forget. I think I am largely functional today and still committed to human rights and peace issues" this largely due to you and Pat. Thank you all very much.