July 4th, 1987, was a day of mourning instead of celebration. Pat Liere had died of cancer at the Methodist Hospital in Rochester, Minnesota, at the age of twenty-three.

Patrick Liere was born March 28, 1964, at Devils Lake, North Dakota, the only son of Larry and Karen Pittner Liere.

Growing up in Devils Lake, Pat was involved in many activities and started to show his strong leadership skills and athletic ability at a young age. He attended St. Joseph’s Grade School and graduated from Devils Lake High School in May of 1982. Pat was class president all four years while attending high school. He was elected to the student council and was a member of the high school band for six years. Pat served as captain of the Devils Lake High School hockey team and received the PeeWee Knutson Hockey Award in 1982. He loved to hunt, snow ski, and water ski.

Patrick attended Lake Region State College where he received his associate in arts in applied science in sales and retail in May 1984. He served as state president of Junior Collegiate Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) and president of the student senate while in college.

At the time of his death, he was a senior at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks majoring in marketing education. While at UND, he became president of the Toastmasters and his pledge class of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity. He was also elected as awards chairman, steward, and vice president of his fraternity. Pat led the Phi Delta Theta hockey team through two championships as goalie and captain of that team. His fraternity brothers established a memorial scholarship endowment through the UND Foundation, and they give many scholarships each year to members of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

Patrick was a member of the North Dakota Army National Guard where he served in the Headquarters Detachment of the 231st Engineering Battalion as a radio operator in the motor transportation section. He was nominated for Guardsman of the Year in 1986 and held the rank of Specialist 4th Class.

Pat had two younger sisters—Joan and Sara—who graduated from Lake Region State College in Devils Lake and UND in Grand Forks. His mother Karen was an instructor at Lake Region State College for twenty-four years, and his father, Larry, was a supply officer for the Army National Guard, serving for thirty-seven years.

The Liere family established this scholarship in Pat’s memory, and it is awarded each spring to a Devils Lake High School graduating senior who has been active in high school and community activities.