C. H. Patterson, In Loving Memory

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Though I was not intimately close with the remarkable C. H. Patterson, I would like to offer some loving memories that may be characteristic of the experiences of many readers. I first met him in the mid-1980s when he came to the University of Georgia to deliver a two-day series of lectures and workshops for UGA graduate faculty and students in counseling. My favorite, which I have still on VHS tape, was called "Values in Psychotherapy." In it, Pat discusses the value of love. He says that Rogers' term "unconditional positive regard" was accepted language for the larger scientific community. However, Pat also tells us to remember that what Rogers is really talking about with the term "unconditional positive regard" is love.

A few years later, I met Dr. Patterson for the second time at the annual Warm Springs International. He once again spoke of love. He shared with the community group that for him, liking clients is much less important (maybe even unnecessary) than loving them. Throughout the 1990s, I knew Pat as a regular participant in the CCTPCA e-net community. There, he contributed to wide-ranging theory and therapy discussions with responses that were thoughtful, stimulating, respectful, and encouraging. When I think about Pat, I think of a man with intellect keen and discerning but with emotion always of love.

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