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SECTION C

DANIEL PATTON SR.

Patton was gifted musician

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Daniel Patton Sr. found his niche strumming country and blue grass music for audiences that spanned from the Calumet Region to as far south as the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville.

"My brother pursued his dream, and really enjoyed being part of the big country music scene," James Patton said. He said his brother's interest in music surfaced when he was a teen and began to do gigs in several local country bands, including Virgil Kane, Flintlock and the Hazzard County Band.

He also spent several years tour-

ing and performing with Big John Howell and the Born to Boogie Band.

Patton said his brother was blessed with a natural talent that was being recognized by some of the best blue grass and country musicians in the music industry.

"People in the Opry were taking notice of my brother's talents, and I think he was at a point in his life when he may have been only one step away from stardom," his brother said.

But the dream was shattered when Patton and Grand Ole Opry legend Billy Walker, and several others were killed when the van in which they were riding ran off Interstate 65 and overturned south

of Montgomery, Ala.

Patton, 40, a resident of Hermitage, Tenn., also had been a longtime resident of Northwest Indiana.

Many country stars, including singers Vince Gill and George Jones sent words of condolence and sympathy to the Patton family.

"Patton said his brother had many pastimes during his life, including fishing, but it was music and his children that were the sun and favorite passions.

"He was a very loving father who truly enjoyed being with his three children, Amie, Daniel Jr. and Bradley, (all of Gary)," his brother said.



Daniel Patton Sr.

Funeral services took place May 27 at the Kuiper Funeral Home, with the Rev. Marko Hughes officiating at the celebration of Patton's life.