



Mary Jolene Peterson

July 25, 1947 - August 23, 2020

Peterson, Mary Jo, age 73, Minneapolis, passed away peacefully after an illness on Aug. 24, 2020.

Preceded in death by her parents Gerald and Mary Nelson. She is survived by her beloved sons, Dan and Patrick (Chris); her sister Jerrie (Scott) Bayer; nieces Meghan (Andrew) Bayer and Marisa Bayer; nephew Blaise Bayer; and other close family and friends.

She built lifelong friendships at Edison High School, St. Cloud State and later at the St. Louis Park community education programs. In retirement, she enjoyed traveling with tour groups, knitting shawls for newborns with her knitting club, and volunteering with Literacy Minnesota to help children and families.

Mary Jo spent her career at Fairview University Medical Center, where she held several leadership positions in the Admissions and Billing departments. She not only helped her teams thrive but also worked to help patients navigate the cost of health care.

Mary Jo lived a passionate and vibrant life. She was an avid consumer of all

things Disney and never missed a Steven Spielberg film. She traveled throughout the country and world, including to Ireland where she always dreamed of writing a book on Ireland's Ghost Villages. Mary Jo was always up for a caper, boasted about "never getting a ticket" despite driving like a maniac, and had a joke for every occasion. She was never afraid to express her opinion, including her thoughts on Minnie Mouse, her long-running feud with the Northeast wild turkeys and her voracious support of the Minnesota Twins. Above all else, Mary Jo was loving and loyal to her family. Her wit and easygoing attitude will be deeply missed.

Mary Jo was active in Minneapolis politics and was regularly elected as a delegate to the Minneapolis and Minnesota DFL conventions. She cared deeply about her community and worked to ensure a fairer, more equitable society for everyone.

Forever laid to rest near her parents, Mary Jo will be buried at Hillside Cemetery in Northeast Minneapolis. Due to COVID-19, a private family memorial will be held. To honor Mary Jo and her spirit, please consider volunteering in your community to register new voters or donate to the Biden-Harris campaign to defeat the current President.

Tribute Wall



“ Thank you for this extended version, telling more about an amazing woman and friend.

Kathleen Martin - September 11, 2020 at 11:55 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mary Jolene Peterson.



August 30, 2020 at 07:33 PM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Mary Jolene Peterson.



August 30, 2020 at 04:43 PM



“ I read in the paper about the loss of Mary Jo. She was a friend through the Womens Club of St. Louis Park and a fellow knitter. We were also ponytail canasta players at Lenox Community Center in St. Louis Park. She will be greatly missed. Please accept my sincere condolences on her passing. Karlene Keuning

karlene keuning - August 28, 2020 at 11:40 AM

MB


Thank you so much for the thoughtful words Karlene! We know how much she loved the Lenox Center and canasta. Wonderful that she was able to build such great friendships there.

Marisa Bayer - August 28, 2020 at 01:51 PM

DA

I worked with Mary Jo at UM Hospitals for many years. A few years ago she joined our Book Club; we had many enjoyable meetings over lunch and missed her when she couldn't attend any longer. I am sorry for your loss and hope you find comfort in happy memories.

Donna Anderson - August 28, 2020 at 04:44 PM


Sandra
Brown

I worked with Mary Jo at the FV billing offices & found her to be a friendly, fun loving, beautiful individual both inside & out. I am so sorry for your loss but she will always be in your heart & in your wonderful memories of her. .

Sandra Brown - August 29, 2020 at 12:58 PM

KM

Mary Jo and I were in the same class at Edison High. More recently, she would attend plays with me and my cousin Edge (who loved her very much). We are missing her
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Kathleen Martin - September 11, 2020 at 11:49 AM