



## Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn

August 11, 1959 - January 21, 2014

Mrs. Mary Jo (Fuerst) Hojohn, age 54, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, January 21, 2014 at the Oneida Healthcare Center with her loving family by her side.

Born in Rutland, Vermont on August 11, 1959, Mary Jo was the daughter of Preston R. Fuerst and the late Patricia (Seery) Fuerst. As a young girl, along with her family, she moved to the Utica area where she was raised and educated, graduating from John F. Kennedy High School. She then furthered her education at the College of St. Rose where she earned a Bachelors Degree in Special Education. She also received a Masters of Science in Education at SUNY Cortland. Subsequently, she was awarded her Certificate of Advanced Study (C.A.S.) in Education from SUNY Cortland. While attending the College of St. Rose, Mary Jo met Paul Hojohn, the love of her life and soul mate. On Valentine's Day, February 14, 1986 they were united in marriage; the couple shared their love for 27 years. At one time, Mary Jo held the position of Principal of Peterboro and South Side Elementary Schools in Canastota. From there, she earned a position as an Assistant Director of Special Education for the Rome City School District. She was currently Director of Special and Alternative Education at Madison-Oneida BOCES. She was an ardent advocate for the education of children and the fulfillment of their emotional and social needs. Just as she shined in the workplace, she radiated love at home as a wife and mother. She purposefully raised her girls to be strong and independent women. Very giving and uplifting, she lived life

to its fullest. Blessed with a tremendous sense of humor, she knew how to make others feel very special. She had a wonderful way of lighting up a room, warming up to those she met, and leaving a beautiful impression on those she touched with her presence. She was also very energetic in her involvement in charitable causes, community events, and activities. She especially enjoyed her time spent coaching youth basketball at Vernon-Verona Sherrill Central School District. She was a passionate fan of North Carolina Tarheels Basketball, a longtime supporter of NY Mets Baseball, and due to her husband's relentless influence, she was also a NY Yankees fan. She was a parishioner of the Church of the Holy Family in Vernon as well as a communicant of Historic Old St. John's Church locally.

Mary Jo is survived by her husband, Paul; her daughters, Ally and Brianna Hojohn, both at home; her father, Preston Fuerst of Utica; her sister and brother-in-law, Catherine and James Mack of Deerfield; and her brothers and sisters-in-law, Mark and M.J. Fuerst, and Matt and Connie Fuerst, all currently residing in Florida. Her extended family includes many nieces and nephews, including Korrie (who was also her goddaughter) and Michael Mack, Meghan and Madison Fuerst, Ryan and Halle Fuerst, Shannon, Kevin, and Keegan Browne, Ashley Hatker, and her son Caleb Hildreth (who was also her godson), Frank Hatker, and Alicia Hatker; great-nieces, great-nephews; cousins, aunts and uncles; mother-in-law Mary Ann Davis and her companion Hank Wagoner; in-laws Michelle and Kevin Browne, Lisa Hatker and her companion Jim; and her many special friends and co-workers.

The family extends gratitude to Mary Jo's physician and friend, Dr. James Vanderhoof, for his compassion and care.

Visitation will be held Sunday from 2:00-6:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Mary Jo's funeral service and Celebration of Life will commence on Monday morning at 9:00 from the funeral home and at 10:00 at Historic Old St. John's Church where her Mass of Christian Burial will be offered by Rev. John Buehler. Interment will take place in Calvary Cemetery at the convenience of the family.



# Cemetery Details

## Calvary Cemetery

2407 Oneida Street  
Utica, NY 13501  
(315) 735-2727

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JAN 26.** 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.  
932 South Street  
corner of Hammond Ave.  
Utica, NY 13501  
(315) 724-6714  
eannacefh@roadrunner.com

## Service

**JAN 27.** 9:00 AM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.  
932 South Street  
corner of Hammond Ave.  
Utica, NY 13501  
(315) 724-6714  
eannacefh@roadrunner.com

## Service

JAN 27. 10:00 AM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.  
932 South Street  
corner of Hammond Ave.  
Utica, NY 13501  
(315) 724-6714  
eannacefh@roadrunner.com

# Tribute Wall



“ *My wife is the love of my life. I should stop there because that says it all. Yet, I can't... I lost my soul mate and my daughters lost an awesome mother. For over 27 years, Mary Jo and I shared and handled every situation-good or bad- together; we were a team. We were a ying and a yang. We played "good cop" and "bad cop" roles to the fullest. As a result, we have two beautiful, smart, sensitive, motivated and independent young ladies to share with the world. Their mother will always be a part of every decision that they make. I know that. And, I am so very proud of that.*

*I'd like to thank each and every one of you that paid respects to my Jo-ster. I've heard whispers that over 1,100 people showed their respects during the wake. And, the mourners at the funeral services at St. John's were enormous. Again, I'd like to thank you all. She deserved that send off. I'd think you'd agree. She was a special lady.*

*Mary Jo- Forever in our hearts.*

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**Paul Hojohn** - February 03, 2014 at 12:12 AM

CL

“ *Joster... An awesome individual who dedicated her life to learning. A strong, person who loved and challenged us all to be better people. Her laughter as well as her attitude was contagious. She would jump at the chance to challenge your sport or political view. (And you know who you are if you lost) And I loved it when she would get the best of someone in a debate. It was very entertaining. She was so much fun to be around. We all are going to miss her very much. Our hearts go out to the Hojohn family*

*Love*

*Cathy, Matthew and Madison*

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**cathy levulis** - January 27, 2014 at 02:51 PM

PZ

“ Paul my heart breaks for you and your daughters, and I pray that the Lord will calm your hearts during these sad times. Know that we will all be reunited with our love ones (Mary Jo) in heaven in our full glory with God our Father. I love you man, hope to see you soon. P.S. My birthday is also August 11 so I will always remember Mary Jo's.  
May God Bless you and keep you and your family in His Loving arms  
Forever.

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**Peter Jonn Zullo** - January 27, 2014 at 09:05 AM

NK

“ Mary Jo was one of the kindest and positive people I knew. Her sense of humor and laugh will always be remembered as well as her love and advocacy for thousands of children. Her biggest love was her family. She touched many lives and I am honored to have had the pleasure to have worked with her side by side for 2 years in Rome and then for many years as a fellow Director. She was an amazing lady and along with thousands, I will miss her dearly. Prayers and sympathy to her whole family.  
Nancy Kristl

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**Nancy Kristl** - January 27, 2014 at 08:04 AM

TE

“ Tammy Ebersold lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn



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**Tammy Ebersold** - January 27, 2014 at 08:01 AM

JD

“ I am saddened by the news of Mary Jo's passing. I was her Resident Assistant at Hahn House at the College of St. Rose. Her humor and laughter was contagious and, yes, a few times she caused a little mischief. Prayers and hugs to the family.

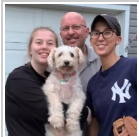
Jody Donaghy-Woltman - January 27, 2014 at 06:55 AM

JS

“ Jackie Starks lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn



Jackie Starks - January 27, 2014 at 05:11 AM



“ I thank each and every one of you that graced us with your presence in our celebration of Mary Jo's life today. While not official, it was over 1,100 people that were touched by my soul mate. My family and I enjoyed the stories about how she touched your lives. Thank you all.

Paul Hojohn - January 27, 2014 at 12:42 AM

KG

“ We are all so sorry for your loss. Mary Jo was one of my daughter Shelby's first coaches. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family.

*The Gilbert Family*

Kathy Gilbert - January 26, 2014 at 08:32 PM

JB

“ I am deeply sorry to hear about the passing of MaryJo. We worked together at Rome City School District. MaryJo was genuine and supportive. Her upbeat personality and laughter will not be forgotten. My thoughts and prayers are with you.  
Joann Brown

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**joann brown** - January 26, 2014 at 06:51 PM

LD

“ To my friend and good neighbor I will miss you and always think of the times we shared with our girls and I will always be there for your family. Rest in peace MaryJo you will be missed by all. Loreen Davies

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**loreen and rick davies** - January 26, 2014 at 06:40 PM

LD

“ Loreen And Rick Davies lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn



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**loreen and rick davies** - January 26, 2014 at 06:36 PM

AN

“ My heart breaks for you all...I can't imagine how you are feeling , as I only worked with her and miss her daily. She always spoke so highly of you girls and was so proud of all you have accomplished.

*I will never forget Maryjo's contagious laugh and bright smile. Regardless of the craziness some days brought us, she always smiled through. BOCES will not be the same without her. Maryjo cared about her faculty and students genuinely as well as took time to get to know them on a personal level. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.*

*Andrea Metz*

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**Andrea** - January 26, 2014 at 04:05 PM

MC

“ To All of the HoJohn -Fuerst family and friends, Wishing comfort and peace during this very difficult time. Mary Jo made a lasting impression on all those she touched. May her memory bring comfort and strength to you always. My deepest condolences  
*Molly Dowe Creedon.*

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**Molly Dowe Creedon** - January 26, 2014 at 11:58 AM

DD

“ *MaryJo's smile, sense of humor, and caring will stay with those who knew her throughout their lives. May your memories sustain you through this difficult time.*

*Deb Dushko*

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**Deb Dushko** - January 26, 2014 at 09:22 AM

DA

“ Paul, Ally, and Brianna,

*My deepest sympathies on the tragic loss of your Wife and Mom. MaryJo was one of those people that followed her heart and did so with passion and tenacity, always keeping her focus on improving the lives of others. No matter how hard the road would become, MaryJo would always emerge with a smile, knowing that it was worth the battle. For many years we have worked together to improve public education. In her honor, I will continue her tradition of advocating for students who need us the most, and will do so with passion, love, and a smile on my face, just as she did for so many years. I pray that time will help heal your broken hearts. We will all miss her dearly.*



*Dave Arntsen*

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Dave Arntsen - January 26, 2014 at 09:01 AM



“ Classic Sympathy Basket Arrangement was purchased for the family of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn.



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January 26, 2014 at 08:28 AM

PH

“ Mary Jo is a tremendous North Carolina basketball fan. So, if you are planning to attend the wake...In tribute, PLEASE show that you love her by painting your fingernail(s) light blue for her team. Show the love....She deserves it.....THANK YOU!

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paul hojohn - January 26, 2014 at 01:49 AM

LP

“ *Pauly, no words can express how sorry I am for you and your girls. I can remember so many moments of laughter MaryJo and I had. Please know you are and always will be in my thoughts. I love you very much!!!*  
*Sincerely, Little Putt Putt and family*



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**Little Putt Putt** - January 25, 2014 at 07:36 PM



“ *Multicolor Bright Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn.*



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January 25, 2014 at 01:53 PM

SA

“ *MaryJo,  
Sadly missed along life's way,  
quietly remembered every day...  
No longer in our life to share,  
but in our hearts, you're always there.*

*Paul, Ally & Bri, my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this time. MaryJo wasn't just my boss, she was my close friend. Each day that she walked in that door she made me smile. She deeply cared about others. I am going to miss her, her smile and her laugh every single day. Oh, the talks her & I had, the memories I can hold close to my heart. Those no one can take away. With love, Shanna Ayers*

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**Shanna Ayers** - January 25, 2014 at 01:04 PM

JL

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with Mary Jo's family. She was a wonderful colleague when working in Canastota. Always there when you needed help with anything and always there when a good time was being had! Just saw her at BOCES this summer....Her spirit will always be with those children she helped and those that she loved.*

*Janine LeBlanc*

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**janine leblanc** - January 25, 2014 at 11:31 AM

MT

“ *Paul,  
I am so sorry to hear of your wife's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*

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**Matt Tunny** - January 25, 2014 at 10:32 AM

MM

“ OUT OF SIGHT OUT OF MIND

*Death is nothing at all.*

*I have only slipped away into the next room.*

*Whatever we were to each other,*

*That we are still.*

*Call me by my old familiar name,*

*Speak to me in the easy way which you always used.*

*Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes we enjoyed together.*

*Play, smile, think of me, pray for me.*

*Let my name be the household word it always was.*

*Let it be spoken without effort.*

*Life means all that it ever meant.*

*It is the same as it ever was;*

*There is absolutely unbroken continuity.*

*Why should I be out of your mind because I am out of your sight?*

*I am but waiting for you, for an interval, somewhere very near,*

*Just around the corner.....*

*All is well,*

*Nothing is past;*

*Nothing is lost.*

*One brief moment and all will be as it was before,*

*Only infinitely better, infinitely happier and forever, we will be one together.*

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**Mike Martel** - January 25, 2014 at 10:06 AM

MM

*Paul you and your family are in my prayers..*

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**Mike Martel** - January 25, 2014 at 10:07 AM

DH

“ *Dick And Cindy Heysler lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn*



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**Dick and Cindy Heysler** - January 25, 2014 at 08:57 AM

DA

“ *Don And Ann Marie Avery lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn*



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**Don and Ann Marie Avery** - January 25, 2014 at 08:44 AM

BO

“ *Bill & Joy Osborne purchased the Simply Lily for the family of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn.*



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**Bill & Joy Osborne** - January 25, 2014 at 08:18 AM

CA

“ *HEY " BEEMER GIRL" DRIVING ON TO THE NEXT HORIZON... YOU'VE LEFT US IN THE DUST BUT SOMEDAY WE'LL CATCH-UP !!! AND TO YOUR FAMILY, TO HAVE AN AWESOME WIFE AND MOM IS A LIFE TIME GIFT....MAY YOUR MEMORIES GIVE YOU STRENGTH AT THIS TIME OF NEED...PEACE.....CASEY*



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**CASEY** - January 25, 2014 at 08:05 AM

CW

“ *A great friend, wife, mom, mentor, student and teacher advocate. Her ability to make everyone feel special and included will be solely missed.  
The world is a much better place because Mary Jo was a part of it.  
My sincere condolences to the entire family.  
Colleen Wuest*



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**Colleen Wuest** - January 25, 2014 at 08:03 AM

MB

“ Mary Ann Barndollar lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn



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Mary Ann Barndollar - January 25, 2014 at 05:57 AM

MB

“ She was an amazing teacher, mentor to her students, very talented in finding a way for every student as individuals. Blessings to her family. Know she will be missed by many I have 6 children all know and loved her dearly and cried when I told them.

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Mary Ann Barndollar - January 25, 2014 at 05:51 AM

PH

“ On behalf of our family, I'd like to say THANK YOU to everyone that has posted thus far. She may have changed your life but she DEFINITELY changed OUR lives.

Mary Jo is my wife and soul mate- enough said. Everyone has their own idea of what a perfect mother would be, right? Well, in my mind, She taught me that parenting is all about communication- a ying and a yang, if you will. Twenty seven years later, I'd say we're ahead of the curve.

Mary Jo is an advocate for ALL that is unconventional in education- the belief in special and alternative education...the chance for EVERY student to get an education! I applaud her and always have!

Again, for the people that she may have touched- Thank you, because it gave her life.

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paul hojohn - January 25, 2014 at 02:03 AM

DC

“*MaryJo was a wonderful professor and educator. I enjoyed having her in college. I had the privilege of having her daughter as a student. She was a wonderful parent. She was vibrant, humorous, knowledgeable, and realistic. She is a person I will never forget.*”

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**Diana Congden** - January 24, 2014 at 09:32 PM

BN

“*I will always remember the love, compassion, and dedication that Mary Jo had to our program and the support that she offered to everyone over the years. It was obvious to anyone that knew her that she was not only a great director but an amazing mom and wife-- always speaking highly of her family. She will be missed by all.*”

*Brandy*

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**Brandy Nittiskie** - January 24, 2014 at 08:33 PM



AD

“*A.J Iacovino & Julie Darling lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn*”



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**A.J Iacovino & Julie Darling** - January 24, 2014 at 08:01 PM



“ *Lavender & White Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn.*



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January 24, 2014 at 07:18 PM



“ *Mary Jo was such a delightful person and so down to earth, always smiling, always ready to help. Her absence will be felt by so many in the school districts - colleagues, students and parents. My condolences go out to her husband and daughters.*

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**Melissa** - January 24, 2014 at 06:44 PM



“ *Mary Jo was the real deal...in a world where you meet so many fake, phony people she was a breath of fresh air. I am blessed to have been able to work with her for several years at MOBOCES. Prayers to her husband and girls...while I never have had the pleasure to meet them, I feel as if I know them because Mary Jo talked about you often. Rest in peace...may God bless ...*  
*Margaret Bailey*

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**Margaret Bailey** - January 24, 2014 at 05:24 PM



“ *Paul I am so sorry to hear of your wife's passing. You and your girls are in my prayers as you try to get through this heartbreaking time. I know she watching over you all as your guardian angel. God Bless*

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**Erin Fox (Rome DMV )** - January 24, 2014 at 04:24 PM

JW

“ *Judy Waite lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn*



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**Judy Waite** - January 24, 2014 at 02:48 PM

TP

“ *Mary Jo was such a special person to all of us here at BOCES. I will miss her deeply. Saying prayers and hope you all will find comfort.*



*Tracy Pulverenti*

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**Tracy Pulverenti** - January 24, 2014 at 02:21 PM

MI

“ *Paul, Briana and Ally: I am truly sorry to hear of your loss of Mary Jo. When we loose a loved one here on earth, we gain an angel in heaven that watches over us. May you take comfort in knowing that you have an angel to watch over you now. I extend my most sincere condolences to you Paul, Brianna and Ally.*

*Mike Ingham - Rome*

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**Mike Ingham** - January 24, 2014 at 01:35 PM

DL

“ I did not know Mary Jo beyond a few brief conversations and the odd email but I have had the pleasure of coaching Brie on my soccer team for a couple of years . If Brie is a reflection of Mary Jo s teachings then all I can say is what a wonderful mother you must have been. I am sure she has passed on the strength and conviction to Brie and her sister Ally to carry on her legacy and continue to make her proud as she watches over you. My deepest condolences to you Paul and to everyone who will miss her.

*David Lester and the entire Pegasus Soccer club family.*

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**David Lester** - January 24, 2014 at 01:00 PM

AL

“ In talking to my son's teacher about this loss it became clear to me that Mary Jo should be celebrated for her dedication and support to students of all abilities, as well as for nurturing teachers and aides who work tirelessly to help students reach important milestones.



*Thank you from Theo and from his mom.*

*I wish family and friends peace and comfort.*

*Alexia*

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**Alexia** - January 24, 2014 at 12:55 PM

JO

“ Jody lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G.  
(Fuerst) Hojohn



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**Jody** - January 24, 2014 at 11:57 AM

PM

“ Paul and Family,

*So very sorry for your loss. Love and prayers to all of you.*

*Pat Martel*

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**Pat Martel** - January 24, 2014 at 11:48 AM

CF

“ Carzo Family lit a candle in memory of Mary  
Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn



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**Carzo family** - January 24, 2014 at 11:46 AM

CF

“ Cathy,

*We are so sorry for the loss of your sister. We are praying for you  
and your family to have faith and strength within each other to get  
through this horrific time.*

*Lisa and Mike Carzo*

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**Carzo family** - January 24, 2014 at 11:45 AM

JH

“ Dear HoJohn Family,

*As a Director of Exceptional Education at Oswego County BOCES, I knew Mary Jo from visitations and meetings. Mary Jo was always welcoming, friendly, supportive, organized, knowledgeable, and had a tremendous sense of humor. She seemed to have a great perspective on the job and life in general. She was always a pleasure to work with and will be missed by all.*

*Jim Huber*

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**Jim Huber** - January 24, 2014 at 11:28 AM

JT

“ Joelle Taylor lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn



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**Joelle Taylor** - January 24, 2014 at 09:48 AM

TH

“ Teri Hoffmeister lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn



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**Teri Hoffmeister** - January 24, 2014 at 09:36 AM

DA

“ Neighbor and coach. Scary Halloween porches and drills for skills. She had the insight to understand that kids are not only placed by physical skills but the whole person. While my son surely wasn't a gifted athlete the team comradely and friends were a greater gift than the game itself. Lessons learned from a truly blessed lady with a giving heart

Dixons formerly Black Ave - January 24, 2014 at 09:28 AM

MM

“ Paul and family,

I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.



Michele Martel - January 24, 2014 at 09:04 AM

WB

“ Wittman Family- Mike, Melissa, Meg & Ben lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn



Wittman Family- Mike, Melissa, Meg & Ben - January 24, 2014 at 08:39 AM

RD

“ Rebekah Davis lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn



Rebekah Davis - January 24, 2014 at 08:35 AM

KW

“ Kyle Wood lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn



Kyle Wood - January 24, 2014 at 08:21 AM

DO

“ Donna lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn



Donna - January 24, 2014 at 08:17 AM

RD

“ Robin DePaul lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn



Robin DePaul - January 24, 2014 at 07:48 AM

BH

“ Brian Haggerty lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn



Brian Haggerty - January 24, 2014 at 06:13 AM

KG

“ *Kathy Grow lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn*



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**Kathy Grow** - January 24, 2014 at 03:59 AM

NA

“ *Mary Jo HoJohn*

*Like to take a moment, to celebrate a life.  
She lived hard and owned it, a teacher, mom and wife.  
She filled up a room with her big belly laugh.  
She lead us with grace- gave smiles to her staff.  
Her heart matched that brain, which was so full of wit.  
She never missed a chance- for a chuckle or a quip.  
Looked Great on TV- she was so eloquent,  
Made thoughtful, caring- choices- in ever hour spent.  
It was a life of service, made the world a better place,  
Her spirit rose us up- her light- brightened up the space.  
An everyday hero, a super duper friend,  
Let's celebrate her life 'cause we know it's not the end.*

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**Nate** - January 24, 2014 at 12:18 AM

DO

“ *I missed Mary Jo even before she left us at Roberts Street for bigger and better dreams. She was the 'go to gal' you wa*

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**Dona** - January 23, 2014 at 11:01 PM

DO

*..., Wanted on a project. She made work fun. Sending my love to her family.*

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**Dona** - January 23, 2014 at 11:02 PM

LD

“*Brianna, Ally and Paul. That picture of your Mom and Wife, Mary Jo is exactly how I will remember her. She has such a cute adorable smile and all that know her loved so many things about her depending on their shared connection. She already lit many candles in her life. Starting with her own bright smile and the fire she carried around with her inspired so many. She lit a candle and quite a spark towards you Paul, her wonderful partner and special flame that she chose to bring your partnership to the next level...two beautiful, bright little sparkley girls that made your family complete. Those two girls are so lovely in so many ways that even a casual friend and neighbor like myself can see their special "shine" by just a few words with them here and there inbetween their busy schedules . As heart-breaking as this is you are still a family and will gain strength and more wisdom each and everyday because I know and you will know that she is here watching over you forever.*




*Here For You Always,*

*Laura D'Agostino and Family*

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**Laura D'Agostino** - January 23, 2014 at 10:30 PM

 Susan  
Combs

“*You will never be forgotten. Your upbeat,cheerful attitude helped us get through so many difficult times. You were a great leader. Deepest sympathy to the Hojohn family.*

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**Susan Combs** - January 23, 2014 at 10:16 PM

SB

“ Stephanie Bickom lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn



Stephanie Bickom - January 23, 2014 at 10:03 PM

SP

“ Sherina Philo lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn



sherina philo - January 23, 2014 at 09:46 PM

KB

“ Mary Jo was the school councillor when I first came to Canastota. She was always there for me when I needed her and was loved by all her students. She will be greatly missed in a world where she brought sunshine to even the cloudiest of days. Love and prayers from Kate Bayne and the Lelio/Bayne families.

Katherine Bayne - January 23, 2014 at 09:40 PM



“ Mary Jo's life should be celebrated. She was a wonderful person. I will remember her selflessly coaching our girls, and helping them gain confidence and succeed in sports and in life. Her accomplishments will live on within the many many others' lives she affected in so many wonderful ways.



Matthew DePaul - January 23, 2014 at 09:24 PM

Joshua  
Northup

“ I went to madison Oneida Boces, and I seen her everyday almost. She was like a best friend to me. she helped me when I was mad and sad. RIP ~love Josh



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**Joshua Northup** - January 23, 2014 at 09:19 PM

AP

“ Andy Pino lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn



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**Andy Pino** - January 23, 2014 at 09:15 PM

AL

“ Anna LaBella lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn



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**Anna LaBella** - January 23, 2014 at 08:46 PM

LA

“ *Mary Jo,  
How incredibly sad it was to hear of your passing. As a physical therapist, there are many patients who you remember and you were at the top of my list. I can still hear you begging me to let up on stretching your knee as the tears rolled down your cheeks because we were doing everything possible to avoid that manipulation. You are a tough lady and I enjoyed getting to know you. You will be missed tremendously!  
Mr. Hojohn and girls, I have never met you, but want to send my deepest condolences for your awful loss. You are in my prayers.*  
*Lindsay Ames*

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**Lindsay Ames** - January 23, 2014 at 08:41 PM

CM

“ *Christine McWilliams lit a candle in memory of  
Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn*



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**Christine McWilliams** - January 23, 2014 at 08:39 PM

DT

“ *Dawn Todd lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo  
G. (Fuerst) Hojohn*



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**Dawn Todd** - January 23, 2014 at 08:16 PM

JO

*“ Mary Jo was a compassionate person, as well as a practical one. She made good things happen for families and children, and for staff too. She will be sorely missed. I am so sorry for you, Mary Jo's family, in your loss. I know you were treasured by your mom.*

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**Janet O'Flynn** - January 23, 2014 at 08:15 PM



*“ Lorraine Jones-Mahler lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn*



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**Lorraine Jones-Mahler** - January 23, 2014 at 08:13 PM

KK

*“ No matter what, Mary Jo always had a smile on her face. She will be truly missed. May God be with the entire Hojohn family. Know that my prayers are with you all as you go through this difficult time.*

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**Karen Kloss** - January 23, 2014 at 08:09 PM

JC

*“ Brianna, Ally, and Paul... Mary Jo spoke of you all so often; she was so proud of her family. I cannot express how sorry I am for your loss. Mary Jo was a great person, and she will be sorely missed.*



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**Jonathan Cornue** - January 23, 2014 at 07:44 PM

DD

“ MARY JO WAS MORE THAN AN DIRECTOR TO ME, SHE WAS A PERSON TO LOOK UP TO FOR ANYTHING WHEN YOU NEEDED HER HER. SHE ALWAYS HAD A BIG BRIGHT SMILE ON HER FACE WHENEVER YOU SEEN HER. SHE WILL BE SADLY MISSED. I WILL KEEP MARY JO AND HER FAMILY IN MY THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS.  
GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU AND TAKE CARE OF YOURSELVES.  
DEB DONALDSON

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**DEB DONALDSON** - January 23, 2014 at 07:33 PM

JW

“ Jennifer White lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn



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**Jennifer White** - January 23, 2014 at 07:23 PM

TF

“ Ally, Brie, & Paul we are so very sorry for this untimely loss. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. We are all here for you.

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**the Butka family** - January 23, 2014 at 07:04 PM

MJ

“ Mary Jo was so much more than our "Director"...She was a confidante, leader, caretaker, and friend....Her wisdom and beauty will be so missed....Love you Mary Jo...

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**Mary Jo Jones** - January 23, 2014 at 06:33 PM

SM

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the Hojohn family*



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**Sharleen Machold** - January 23, 2014 at 06:15 PM

ML

“ *To all of Mary Jo's family, especially, Paul, Ally and Brianna, we are holding you close in our hearts and prayers at this difficult time.*

*Friends at Church of The Holy Family, Vernon*

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**mary laforest** - January 23, 2014 at 06:15 PM

CR

“ *Colleen Redding lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn*



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**Colleen Redding** - January 23, 2014 at 06:11 PM

DD

“ *Deb Donnelly lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn*



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**Deb Donnelly** - January 23, 2014 at 05:08 PM

SB


“ *For Paul, Ally, Brianna and family;*

*On behalf of Ken Kreutzer, Steve Ostrander and our families,  
I wish to express our sincere sympathy for your loss.*

*Steven L. Brustein  
Senior Investigator  
Syracuse DFI Unit*

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**Steven Brustein** - January 23, 2014 at 04:41 PM

  
Shannon  
Day  
Westcott

“ *My son is a JD George Elem student in the  
BOCES program and we received a notice of  
Mrs. Hojohn's death. My condolences and  
prayers are with her family and friends and I  
am sorry for your loss!*



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**Shannon Day Westcott** - January 23, 2014 at 04:04 PM

CA

“ *Carol lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G.  
(Fuerst) Hojohn*



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**Carol** - January 23, 2014 at 03:53 PM

LP

“ *Linda Potts lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn*



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**Linda Potts** - January 23, 2014 at 03:37 PM

GB

“ *Genevieve Brauner lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn*



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**Genevieve Brauner** - January 23, 2014 at 03:18 PM

TF

“ *We will keep Mary Jo and Family in our prayers.*



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**Tim & Colleen Moylan Family** - January 23, 2014 at 02:57 PM

JK

“ *Jim Kramer lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn*



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**Jim Kramer** - January 23, 2014 at 02:56 PM

AD

“ At a time like this no words are even adequate on how family, friends, and coworkers feel about Mary Jo's passing. To say I am saddened at the sudden lose of your wife, and your mom would be an understatement. My heart aches for all of you. The memories you, the girls, and family hold deep in your hearts will help to sustain all of you. Draw on them whenever you need strength. Many people hold you close, and are praying for you. You are in my prayers and I share your pain and sorrow to know what a great gal you had, and how she shared much joy, laughter, and fun with all of us.

Annette Deyle

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Annette Deyle - January 23, 2014 at 02:32 PM

JC

“ Jackie Carll lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn



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Jackie Carll - January 23, 2014 at 02:19 PM

VV

“ Vanessa Vaccaro lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn



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Vanessa Vaccaro - January 23, 2014 at 02:19 PM

OG

“ *Olga Gagnon lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn*



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**Olga Gagnon** - January 23, 2014 at 01:45 PM

OG

*We are going to missed you, You were such a part of are family. Rest in peace mary Joe . you,ve have touch many Lives*

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**Olga Gagnon** - January 23, 2014 at 01:56 PM

JG

“ *We were so saddened to hear of Mary Jo's passing. Our hearts are heavy and our deepest condolences go out to the entire family. May she rest in peace and may her memory be eternal. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.*



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**John and Liz Gagne** - January 23, 2014 at 01:41 PM

RC

“ *Mary Jo, you definitely will be missed, your heart of gold, wonderful smile and warm, caring and friendly personality. I first met you through Rome CSD and then had the joy to see you again at BOCES. My thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends. God bless all of you.*  
*Rose Crowley*

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**Rose Crowley** - January 23, 2014 at 01:40 PM

SS

“ I feel so fortunate to be blessed to know Mary Jo. She was an amazing co-worker, confidant and friend. She will truly be missed by all whose lives she has touched.

Shelly Schultheis - January 23, 2014 at 01:39 PM

BK

“ Brooke Kopek lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn



Brooke Kopek - January 23, 2014 at 01:28 PM

MM

“ God has gained another angel to watch over your BOCES family. My thoughts and prayers go out to your family and friends. We will miss you my friend

Mary M

Mary Maitland - January 23, 2014 at 01:24 PM

JD

“ Julie Davis lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn



Julie Davis - January 23, 2014 at 01:17 PM

RC

“ Rose Crowley lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn



Rose Crowley - January 23, 2014 at 01:15 PM

KR

“ My fondest memory with Mary Jo was sitting on the dock at Blue Mountain and talking about everything but work. We talked mostly about our families and through her stories she revealed how much she loved her girls. Back on campus, you could always count on a smile and a laugh from Mary Jo when meeting up in the halls or parking lot. She will be missed at our table. Peace Mary Jo.

Kathleen Rinaldo - January 23, 2014 at 01:14 PM

ES

“ Ed Salsberg lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn



Ed Salsberg - January 23, 2014 at 01:12 PM

TV

“ Todd VanDresar lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn



Todd VanDresar - January 23, 2014 at 01:12 PM

JP

“ *Jill Pekarski lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn*



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**Jill Pekarski** - January 23, 2014 at 01:05 PM

AP

“ *Share a memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn, or send a condolence to the family...*

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**Ann Pangburn** - January 23, 2014 at 01:02 PM

AP

*Mary Jo and I go way back. We got our CAS's together and both wound up in Rome CSD. Then we both wound up at BOCES. She and I were fellow "cellar dwellers", a term she coined for all of who shared offices in the basement. She will be missed and we are so sorry for your loss.*

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**Ann Pangburn** - January 23, 2014 at 01:05 PM



“ *White Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn.*



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January 23, 2014 at 11:53 AM



“ *Bob Northup lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn*



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**Bob Northup** - January 23, 2014 at 11:20 AM

Jen Marie

“ *Jen Marie lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn*



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**Jen Marie** - January 23, 2014 at 11:12 AM

TF

“ *The Clark Family lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn*



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**The Clark Family** - January 23, 2014 at 10:52 AM

CD

“ *Cyndi DeDominick lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn*



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**Cyndi DeDominick** - January 23, 2014 at 10:42 AM

RF

“ Rik Froschauer lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn



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rik froschauer - January 23, 2014 at 09:22 AM

RF

“ We will miss you MJ, your sense of humor, compassion and ability to make others feel special... God has a new angel.

Rik & Karen Froschauer

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rik froschauer - January 23, 2014 at 09:19 AM

SK

“ MJ - I'll miss your honesty, humor and passion for your work. We never had a conversation where I didn't laugh or learn something. Thank you. Heartfelt condolences to Paul and the girls for their tremendous loss.

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SK - January 23, 2014 at 09:00 AM

EW

“ R.I.P. Mrs. Hojohn. You are loved and missed by so many. You have touched so many children's hearts (including mine). My thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends.

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Elizabeth Williams - January 23, 2014 at 08:28 AM

BR

“ I've known you for so many years and I just can't believe you're gone :( You have such a huge impact on who I have become today. Thank you so much for everything that you have done. You were my hero, forever and always. I love you so much. I'm so sorry for your loss. Hojohn family <3

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**Brittani** - January 23, 2014 at 08:09 AM

RI

“ What a wonderful woman! Welcomed me into my first job at the Rome City School District..what a blessing! My thoughts and prayers are with her family and loved ones.

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**Richard** - January 23, 2014 at 07:44 AM

LB

“ Thoughts and prayers go out to Mary Jo's family and co-workers. She was a wonderful person who brought a smile to all who met her and was cherished by all who worked with her through the years. I treasure all of those moments while she was at Canastota. May the memories of those moments uplift and sustain you all through the times ahead. May God hold you all gently in the palm of His hand.  
Linda Baldwin

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**Linda Baldwin** - January 23, 2014 at 07:19 AM

JW

*so beautifully written. You echoed my thoughts*

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**jan white** - January 23, 2014 at 07:26 PM

DA

“ Eternal rest grant to her , O Lord, and let perpetual light shine on MaryJo. May she rest in peace. Our family sends love and prayers to all , especially her family! We were blessed to have such a marvelous woman inspire and guide our daughter !  
*The Abel Family*

deborah abel - January 23, 2014 at 07:06 AM

AA

“ Anthony, Nan, Sophie, Tristen, and Aiden purchased the Classic Sympathy Basket Arrangement for the family of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn.



Anthony, Nan, Sophie, Tristen, and Aiden - January 23, 2014 at 06:22 AM

EL

“ Mary Jo will be missed. I had the honor of working with her during her time at Rome City Schools. She was an awesome person who was filled with compassion and caring for both her students and staff! May the family find peace and solace in her memory.

ellen - January 23, 2014 at 06:20 AM



“ Mary Jo was a person who literally saved my life. Helped me come back and was a friend who I'll miss dearly. My heart goes out to her family, friends, and coworkers. She was a very special person who is now among the angels.

Colette Coppola - January 23, 2014 at 05:32 AM

EB

“*MaryJo was a compassionate and wise school administrator who will be profoundly missed. She adored her family and talked proudly of them often. Our deepest sympathies for your loss. I will fondly remember MaryJo for many things she observed and advised but will especially cherish her wit and laughter. She seemed to know the importance of keeping everything in proper balance and that is a legacy we'll all strive to emulate. God bless her for the genuine care she daily demonstrated.*



*Respectfully,  
Ed & Diane Bronson*

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**Ed Bronson** - January 23, 2014 at 05:00 AM

MS

“*An amazing woman with a beautiful smile and strong heart. She was my confidant, colleague, and friend. MaryJo helped me through some struggles over the years, as well as encouraged me. To Mr. HoJohn, Ally, and Brianne; MaryJo will live on through the three of you. Hold onto the memories, for they will get you through the days ahead. Lean on each other for support. She is in great hands and you will see her again, just BELIEVE. GOD Bless you: Martha Schultheis*

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**Martha Schultheis** - January 22, 2014 at 09:21 PM

KK

“ *Mary Jo was such a good person. I worked with her, coached girl's basketball with her, and always enjoyed her warm fun smile. My deepest condolences to her family during this difficult time. May God be with you.*

*Karl Keil*

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**Karl Keil** - January 22, 2014 at 08:10 PM

TM

“ *Tamalin Martin lit a candle in memory of Mary Jo G. (Fuerst) Hojohn*



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**Tamalin Martin** - January 22, 2014 at 07:18 PM

TM

*Sending out a blue candle from Camden in remembrance of Mary Jo. My sincere sympathies are with the family at this time. Mary Jo and I collaborated on many occasions together at work. We always looked to find the bright moments in the midst of difficult situations. Mary Jo - you will be sorely missed!*

*Tamalin*

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**Tamalin Martin** - January 22, 2014 at 07:26 PM