



## Mrs. Mary Jo Pitts

March 11, 1952 - December 26, 2021

Mary Jo Pitts

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Mary Jo passed away peacefully at home on December 26th, 2021 after a valiant battle with a number of significant health challenges. She was 69 years old. Mary Jo's husband of 33 years, Terry (TP), was at her bedside, as was her only daughter, Delia Knuteson, and her husband Bill.

Mary Jo was born in Pittsburgh of Italian immigrant parents; she later enjoyed her teenage years in Hawaii, graduating from Kailua high school. As a young adult, she found her way to Arkansas where she met her husband, Terry. Always a gentle spirit and a lover of animals, it was discovered that she was able to form truly unique bonds of understanding and trust with animals that went well beyond the explainable. These special gifts immersed her and her family into a life, that in one way or another, would always include furry friends. Saving an orphaned, disadvantaged, or abandoned animal was every bit as important to her as winning a first place agility ribbon, or earning a "Q". Mary Jo and Terry moved to Shelbyville, TN in the early 90s where she continued participating in the things she loved, while cultivating a long list of priceless friendships. Those friendships will continue into eternity.

Mary Jo was a vivacious soul with an uncanny zest for life. She was

passionate, compassionate, and unmatched in her selfless generosity. She lived her life by her favorite Ralph Waldo Emerson quote, "The greatest gift is a portion of thyself." She had a servant's heart, and nothing made her happier than to do something kind for another person. Her kind heart, and that old-school Italian wisdom, rarely failed to solve someone's problem, answer their question, or at least offer some sage advice that was always grounded in truth, love, and compassion.

Mary Jo is survived by her husband Terry.

Also, ex-husband Ken Willes of Little Rock, AR. and their daughter, Delia Marie Knuteson of Houston, TX., Sister, Flora Collette of N. Little Rock, AR., Aunt Joyce, Lorraine, and numerous other cousins in Pittsburg, and other areas, many nieces and nephews: Krista, Jon, Paul, Courtney, Ashley, Amy, Heather, Hollie, and a host of step grandchildren and step great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her father, Delio Colonna, her mother, Flora B Colonna, and her brother, Delio "Jerry" Colonna Jr.

Friends may come by the funeral home 12-5 PM Wednesday, December 29, 2021, to view the slide show, and obtain a memorial record. The family will not be present.

There will be a family and friend's memorial service at 5 PM Wednesday, December 29, 2021, at Feldhaus Memorial Chapel. Reverend Mark Ashley will officiate.

Memorials may be made to the charity of your choice or any local animal shelter.

Feldhaus Memorial Chapel is assisting the family with the arrangements.



# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **29**. 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Feldhaus Memorial Chapel  
2022 North Main St.  
Shelbyville, TN 37160  
(931) 684-8356  
feldhausgowensmith@gmail.com  
<http://feldhausgowensmith.com/>

## Memorial Service

DEC **29**. 5:00 PM (CT)

Feldhaus Memorial Chapel  
2022 North Main St.  
Shelbyville, TN 37160  
(931) 684-8356  
feldhausgowensmith@gmail.com  
<http://feldhausgowensmith.com/>

# Tribute Wall

LR

“ Mary Jo came to me for Agility lessons. I learned much more from her than she ever learned from me. Her humor, omgosh, I can still picture her giggling over something, her sunshine attitude when her legs didn't always do what she asked, her love for friends and her family, and her love for her pups. She was so proud of her daughter and shared that love and pride freely with all who knew her. This world needs more people like Mary Jo and I'm so sad she's left us. My sympathies to her family. She sure loved you guys and I know you reciprocated that love. How could you not love MJ?

Linda Robertson - December 29, 2021 at 10:21 PM

AM

“ As many of us have, I met Mary Jo at a local dog show here in Murfreesboro, TN many many years ago. She was showing a terrier "Cricket" as I was showing a yorkie named " Cricket and terrier named "Bud". Easy to say we became friends instantly. Mary Jo always showed interest in everything you did with enthusiasm and laughter. She always had a smile and words with a giggle. I will miss her but remember her always. Anne Mathis

Anne Mathis - December 29, 2021 at 05:03 PM



“ Classic Charcuterie Snacks Gift Set was purchased for the family of Mrs. Mary Jo Pitts.



December 29, 2021 at 11:41 AM

RJ

“ It's hard to think of a time when Mary Jo wasn't in an uplifting spirit. She always seemed to be happy regardless of circumstances. She was courageous throughout all of her health battles. She was an inspiration to all who knew her, I'm certain of that. We will miss her, but she will live in our hearts forever!

Rick & Lisa Jordan - December 28, 2021 at 06:08 PM

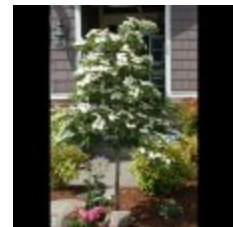
PC

“ How time flies.... I remember the first time I met MJ... I think Dr West hooked us up as one of her Arabian horses had EPM and my horse Moose had EPM, we were the first in the county to have horses with this disorder. (must have been over 20 years ago now) And after that, we just hung out and kept in touch. She started a grooming and boarding facility and I had her groom my dogs, and then years later, I returned to grooming and Terry handled all my sharpening . The years just flew by really. But Terry and MJ were always so sweet to me. And MJ was just so special and also very funny, she always made me laugh.

Patti Classy Canine Cuts - December 28, 2021 at 06:07 PM

NE

“ Namaste ~ John and Ellen purchased the Chinese Dogwood Tree for the family of Mrs. Mary Jo Pitts.



Namaste ~ John and Ellen - December 28, 2021 at 03:51 PM

EL

“ I met Mary Jo about 25+ years ago, stopping at her farm - which had the sign "Kismet Farms Arabians." Since we had recently moved from Virginia with our Arabians, I had to meet her! Over the years we shared so much with each other, especially on the subjects of Spirituality (including "Kismet"), Angels, and of course – our horses!

*I wasn't present for this event, but Mary Jo told me about it: my husband John and Mary Jo were trying to bring back to KFA her little horse Doc (KF Double Doc Tiger). Since she only had a BIG trailer, John brought our 3-horse slant. It was much easier to maneuver. It turned out that Doc (who I always thought of as being ½ Quarter Horse, ½ Arabian, and ½ Mule) absolutely REFUSED to load. They ended up with John slowly driving the truck and trailer, with Mary Jo leading DocRoodle (my name for him) behind.*

*After a bit, a man pulled over and asked if they needed help loading Doc, and they gratefully accepted. The guy and John literally lifted up the hindquarters of this recalcitrant little horse and shoved him into the trailer. When Mary Jo asked where he lived, he pointed up a side road, and described his house.*

*Later, Mary Jo and I wanted to thank this man for his help but driving down the road where he said he lived, there was nothing but fields and woods – and not a single house on the entire road. We immediately had the same thought: It was NOT a man; it was definitely An Angel.*

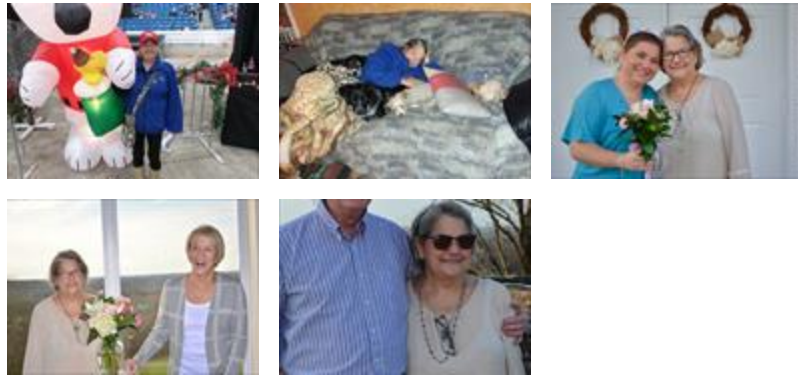
*The Angels are all around us, and I have no doubt that Mary Jo is still good friends with them and talking about all their times together before she went Home.*

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Ellen - December 28, 2021 at 03:40 PM



“ 48 files added to the album Memories



Feldhaus-Gowen-Smith Memorial Chapel - December 28, 2021 at 02:58 PM



“ Mrs. Mary Jo was indeed everything listed above! Just from the little time I knew her, I felt a special relationship with her as if I'd known her all my life. She will be missed tremendously by many, but mostly by all fur babies who still need such a Loving, caring and passionate advocate ❤️  
Rest Peaceful, my Friend, Shelly Calvert

Shelly Calvert - December 28, 2021 at 10:41 AM



“ Mary Jo was a lovely person and will be greatly missed. Our deepest condolences to Terry and the family. Rest in peace, Mary Jo.

Jim & Carol Probasco - December 27, 2021 at 10:05 PM



“ I have played a lot of golf with TP, however early on, I had never met Mary Jo. We had a golf trip planned to Crossville, and I was running late to the meeting place. When I got there everyone was ready to drive off, and TP was in his car with a blonde lady. We left and drove straight to our destination, and when we arrived, he was seated next to a brunette. I was sure I hadn't lost my mind, yet. She was wearing a wig. She was a hoot. She will be missed. EC (Bucker) Huffman.

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**Edward Huffman** - December 27, 2021 at 08:31 PM

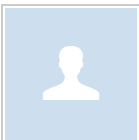


“ *Patty Davidson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Mary Jo Pitts*



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**Patty Davidson** - December 27, 2021 at 06:29 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mrs. Mary Jo Pitts.*



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December 27, 2021 at 03:05 PM