



Mary Jo Dusenberry

March 3, 1940 - December 22, 2020

Mary Jo Martin LeFevre Dusenberry passed away peacefully on December 22, 2020. Mary Jo was born on March 3, 1940 in St. Louis, MO, to William Martin and Ruth Dunham Martin. While growing up, she attended Brentwood elementary and high school in St. Louis, and spent most summers at her grandparent's farm in New Cambria, MO with her numerous cousins and family. She then attended the University of Missouri where she studied English. She was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority where she made many of her lifelong friends. After graduating from the University of Missouri, Mary Jo set a goal of visiting 40 different countries before she turned 25 years old, and she accomplished this goal over the next three years.

After graduation, Mary Jo joined the United Service Organizations (USO) Division of the U.S. military and spent the next several years traveling abroad scheduling and arranging for celebrity entertainment of US troops who were pulled from the front lines, and she did so with great success. While in the USO, Mary Jo especially enjoyed the beautiful lands, culture and lifestyle of Southeast Asia which sparked her passion of collecting Asian influenced art and furniture. She later moved to Thailand where she became fluent in Thai and taught English.

Upon returning to the United States, Mary Jo settled in Virginia Beach, VA where she embarked on a new career as a first-generation jeweler, combining

her knowledge of jewels and stones learned in the orient with her entrepreneurial spirit and unfailing energy to succeed, which resulted in Facet's Jewelers, in Virginia Beach, VA and ultimately a second store in nearby Norfolk. Facets Jewelers was a member of the American Gem Society and was chosen by Tiffany & Co. and Rolex to be the exclusive distributor of their merchandise for the Tidewater area at the time.

After retiring from the jewelry business, Mary Jo lived in Winter Haven, FL for several years before moving to Nashville to be closer to family and her grandchildren.

Mary Jo is preceded in death by her parents, William and Ruth Martin, her brother, Richard Martin and her husband Paul Dusenberry. She is survived by her daughters, Lori LeFevre Steele of Portland, OR and Leslie Bowman Robinson (Worrick) of Nashville, TN as well as two grandchildren, Quint Robinson and Aubrey Robinson of Nashville, and niece Jamie Martin Kubota (Ken) of San Francisco, CA and nephew Jesse Martin (Kelly) of Sugar Land, TX. A celebration of life will be held at a future date. Arrangement's under the direction of Phillips-Robinson Funeral Home, Nashville, TN.

Tribute Wall



“ *Mary Jo Dusenberry*

October 14, 2022 at 08:02 PM



“ *I am Patricia Dusenberry O'Connor and the sister of Paul Dusenberry. Mary Jo was my sister-in-law. She was always such a generous and gracious lady. She made my brother happy. She was always so nice to me. She will be missed.*

Patricia O'Connor - January 16, 2021 at 03:12 PM



“ *Greetings from Pat Darling, Martin Edward Darling's daughter. Martin was a cousin of Mary Jo's, and like my sister Jane, I didn't have the opportunity to meet Mary Jo, but I will always be grateful to her mother Ruth for attending my wedding in Minneapolis in 1976. Because her children had been international people, Ruth graced my wedding party as the relative who could appreciate a Zen Center wedding and the international friends who attended the wedding. She thoroughly enjoyed herself, and I always regretted not having more contact with her side of the family. We knew that hat Mary Jo had an upscale jewelry business and that our parents attended Lori Steele's wedding, along with other visits. Our mother Huella Darling was trying to reach Mary Jo this December before she, too, passed. Condolences for your loss. Mary Jo was a classy woman.*



Pat Darling - December 30, 2020 at 12:20 PM

MN

“ Hello, my name is Mary Jane Darling Norskog, I live in Thermopolis Wyoming. I never met Mary Jo, but my parents Martin and Huella knew her well and visited her a few times over the years. My children have pieces of her jewellery for graduation presents from my parents. I met Ruth many years ago in St. Lewis when I was in high school in the 1970's.
I am so sorry for your loss. Huella past December 2nd 2020. Martin past September 2009.

mary norskog - December 30, 2020 at 11:04 AM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Lori Steele - December 30, 2020 at 10:00 AM