

MARY JO LINDQUIST

February 23, 1939 – June 30, 2024



LINDQUIST

Mary Josephine Lindquist, better known to her friends as Jo or Mary Jo, peacefully left her earthly home, to join her heavenly father, in the quiet early morning hours of June 30th, 2024.

Born Mary Josephine Rasor on February 23rd, 1939, to William Willford II and Mary Louise Rasor in San Antonio, Texas. Mary Jo was the first of two children born to Bill and Mary.

Mary Jo spent the first part of her youth growing up with her parents and brother Bill surrounded by family in both San Antonio and Catarina, Texas. Her father was a Gulf Oil Salesman and longtime mechanic and spent years following the migrant farmers and crops. The Rasor family settled in Falfurrias, Texas in 1949. When she arrived Mary Jo would not only start the fourth grade but also meet her lifelong friends (more like sisters) Norma, Sara, and Billye while attending Lasater Elementary school.

The girls spent countless days together that Mary Jo held very dear. Once in high school most drove with or without a license, and some didn't get a license until they left home to go to college, the dusty hot Texas Summers were spent hanging out at the Drive Inn or going to a movie, and despite their strict parents the girls were allowed to date in the summers. This group, known lovingly as "The Four" would attend school together at Falfurrias high until the start of their junior year when Mary Jo would go on to attend and later graduate from Our Lady of The Lake, in San Antonio, Texas as a fourth-generation attendee on May 27, 1957.

Upon graduation from high school, The Four were together again for the summer and all made plans to attend college – Mary Jo and Norma would be roommates at Texas A&I (now known as Texas A&M Kingsville), living in Lewis Hall. While Sara and Billye attended other institutions - this, however, was short lived and by the following fall The Four were reunited all attending Texas A&I!

The Four shared countless memories together from playground games to movie dates, dances, graduations, and weddings but the most memorable of these times being while attending Texas A&I. For Mary Jo especially on the first Friday of the 1957 Fall Semester; as Mary Jo wrote, the weekend was here and freshmen were assigned to dorms, and then there was a Dateless Dance. Bob was now a sophomore and he had been there long enough to know his way around campus. He joined the rest of the football team and sat on the stage to observe all the new incoming freshmen girls who came to their first Dateless Dance. That night he danced with Jo's good friend and roommate, Norma, inquiring if she knew someone he had known since elementary school, Mary Jo Rasor.

Mary Jo and Bobby were no strangers to one another, having first met when Mary Jo was a new first grader in Carrizo Springs Elementary sitting in front of a Second grade Bobby, who spent more occasions dipping her pigtails into ink than she liked to admit. Their fathers were both working as mechanics and were introduced to one another at the same jobsite naturally leading their mothers to become acquainted sharing coffee, gossip, and in time news of the war as their children played together.

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After a 2-year courtship Mary Jo wed Bobby Gene Lindquist on August 8th of 1959 and, in her words, began a whirlwind of a life together until Bob's passing on June 18, 2004.

On November 19, 1960, Mary Jo welcomed her first child Julie Lynn, born while Bobby and Jo were living in Kingsville. In September of 1961, the family was assigned to Holloman Air Force Base, in White Sands, New Mexico. There Bobby served as a member of a newly combined organization known as STRICOM and Mary Jo would become close with many of the other wives of officers involved in STRICOM.

The Family was deployed to Stuttgart, Germany in 1962. They welcomed their second child son James Owen, better known as Jim, on January 25, 1963. Their time in Germany was full of fond memories of visits from family, the excitement of raising children, especially in a foreign country, and trips spent in other European destinations.

Upon their return from Germany, during the Christmas season of 1965, Jo worked to settle the family in Alice, Texas, and that summer, while Bob went to take finals, Jo drove herself to Alice Hospital to deliver her third child Miss Jill Rene on July 11, 1966. However, there was a shortage of jobs which led Bob to take a job coaching at Harlingen High and Mary Jo would take a job teaching at a school that was home to many migrant farm workers' children in Harlingen. The family stayed 6 years in Harlingen, and while it was a very comfortable situation in Harlingen, Mary Jo and Bob desired more for their children and sought to improve their situation – for her part Mary Jo, in the fall of 1969 completed her student teacher's degree and in May 1970 she graduated from Pan American College in Edinburg, Texas with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education.

In the summer of 1972, the family moved to the Strawberry Capitol of Texas, Poteet. In Poteet Mary Jo and Bob bought their first home and settled into the community where they worked to build a football team, new field house, new field, athletic program, and a life within their community for their growing family.

The summer of 1977 saw the family moved from Poteet to start a new chapter in Refugio, Texas. Prior to their arrival Mary Jo was promised a temporary job but it was soon learned that this was no longer available. Thanks to the wonderful members of the local Episcopal church Mary Jo would soon be put to work supervising a crew of "mis-guided" youth who spent their days clearing brush and debris – for this role Mary Jo quickly earned her license to drive a dump truck to haul the clearings picked up by the youth, off to the dump. Julie would go on to graduate while the family lived in Refugio.

The summer of 1979 the family made its final move to Taylor – Bob would take a coaching job as a Taylor Duck and Mary Jo would take a teaching position at Twelfth Street Elementary and later finish her teaching career in 2000 at TH Johnson Elementary. Mary Jo left a lasting impression on every one of her students, caring for each as if it were her own child or grandchild. It was rare she was introduced as anything other than "Nana" as she often filled that role for so many.

Mary Jo was a proud member of St. James Episcopal church where she served for a number of years as a member of the Choir, on the Bishops Committee, serving the Daughters of the King, as a proud Glory Bound Singer, and she served as an alter guild. In addition, Mary Jo was a member of the Taylor Garden Club for many years as well as the Taylor Women's Study Club. She loved to volunteer and spent time working at the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift shop as well as serving as a Taylor ISD Ambassador for years. Spring was one of her favorite times of year and she cherished her time spent tending to her beautiful trees, plants, and flowers - each spring she would carefully prune each plant and pull each weed while lovingly encouraging each to grow just the way she encouraged each person she encountered. She had a wealth of plant knowledge and loved to share beautiful plants as well as her knowledge of plants and trees with loved ones. Mary Jo's kind spirit, bright smile, and love for her everyone around her proceeded her. She very dearly loved Jesus and her church, her family, her many many friends, a lifelong menagerie of animals turned pets, shopping, margaritas, mariachis, and to travel. Her zest for life and her desire to learn and explore led her to many extraordinary places throughout her life and she continued those travels as often as possible in her later life.

She was, a wonderful and very welcomed daughter, a bossy and loving older sister, a caring friend to many, a loving wife to Bob, a doting mother to Julie, Jim, and Jill, an amazing Nana to more than just her own share

of grandchildren, a favorite teacher, a lifelong cheerleader, an outstanding example of a Christian woman, an always empathetic shoulder to cry on, a talented seamstress regularly tasked to finish projects, but also a creative genius to knit them together, an plant lover with a green thumb and an even bigger heart, she will be dearly missed by her family and friends.

Mary Jo was raucously greeted in heaven by a host of loved ones including her husband and the love of her life Bobby Gene Lindquist; her parents, William Wilford II and Mary Louise Razor; dear friends, Sara, Norma, and Billye, as well as many other wonderful friends and loved ones.

She is survived by her brother, William Willford Razor III, and his wife Jane, of Florida; daughter, Julie Downs and husband Tom, of Taylor; son, Jim Lindquist and Wife Rebecca, of Leander; daughter, Jill Odle and husband Ken of Houston; grandson, David Downs and wife Katy, their sons Henry and Whit of Taylor; granddaughter, Emily Smith and husband Jordan of Taylor; granddaughter, Jessica O'Brien and husband Creig, their sons, Braeden and Tyson of Taylor; granddaughter, Jennifer Lindquist and fiancé Charlie Woods of Round Rock; granddaughter, Jesse Abernathy and wife Melissa, and their children Dean and Taylor; granddaughter, Kristen Abernathy of Austin; granddaughter, Synde Peters and husband Emil, and their daughters Skylar and Emma of Jarrell; nephew, Darrell Razor his wife Adrianna and their children and grandchildren; neice, Holly Razor and countless friends.

Final arrangements are pending and will be available through the providence website once finalized. Following the service the family will travel to San Antonio where Mary Jo and Bobby Gene Lindquist will be interned together at their final resting place, at Coker Cemetery in San Antonio, Texas.

In lieu of flowers the family asks Mary Jo's friends and loved ones to please make a donation in her honor to the St. James Episcopal Church of Taylor Discretionary fund, the Taylor Educational Enrichment Foundation at <https://www.tayloreducationfoundation.com/> or to the Texas A&M University Kingsville Foundation at <https://www.javelinagiving.org/give-online>.

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Published on the Providence Funeral Home website on July 2024.