



Elizabeth Jean MacLaughlin

October 29, 1944 - October 27, 2020

Elizabeth Jean Mayo MacLaughlin was born on October 29, 1944 in Tallahassee, Florida and passed away on October 27, 2020 at St. Ann's Hospital, Westerville, Ohio. She is survived by her husband of 52 years, Lewis H. MacLaughlin III, and her son, L. Harte MacLaughlin MD and his wife Peggy, and her grandchildren, Kyle E. MacLaughlin, Claire E. MacLaughlin, and Catherine R. MacLaughlin, of Columbus; and by her brother, Dr. William T. Mayo, Jr., Ph.D., EE, Costa Mesa, CA and his children Taylor Mayo, Diane Mayo, and Sharon Mayo; and by her brother Nathan M. Mayo, D.D.S., Maitland, FL, and his daughter Melody Barton (Derek) DC, and granddaughter Cora E. Barton, and his son Clayton Mayo (Katie Shine); and by her brother Joseph B. Mayo, Prattville, AL and his partner Karen V. Lawler, and by his daughter Allecia Mayo, and grandchildren Anna, Alec, Austin and Alyssa; and by her cousins John M. Hodges, FL, and Susan Hodges Knutzen (Jim) Jacksonville, FL, their sons Josef Knutzen and Jess Knutzen, and by her aunt, Joan McLean (Bruce) , Kansas City MO, and her daughters Kathy Eisenbeis and Connie Caldwell. She is also survived by cousins Katherine Woodward and Mayo Woodward, and their father Robert Woodward. She is predeceased by her father, William T, "Billy" Mayo, former head of Florida Interstate Highways, Chairman, Florida Public Service Commission, and her Mother, Betty Blalock Mayo, a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Florida State College for Women (later F.S.U.) in Chemistry, the first PBK chapter in Florida. This was at a time when few women went to college, much less majored in the

sciences, and she worked in state labs before her marriage. She is also predeceased by her aunt, Theodosia “Teeny” Hodges, and her husband, H.M. Hodges; and by her parents Joseph “Daddy Joe” and Gladys Blalock; and by her cousin, Eleanor Gravely Woodward Fleming, and by her former sister-in-law, Mary Ann Jennings. Her paternal grandfather, Nathan Mayo, was a Florida Commissioner of Agriculture, who held the office for so long they named a building in Tallahassee for him. She is also survived by her husband’s sister-in-law, Elissa V. MacLaughlin, and her daughter Susan M. Rasche, her partner Eric Ford, granddaughters Margaret Rasche and Virginia (Terry) Lewis, great-granddaughter Alba J. Lewis; and by her daughter, Elizabeth Harmon (Jeff); and her son Jerome MacLaughlin (Margaret) and granddaughters Madeline MacLaughlin and Ella MacLaughlin; and by her husband’s cousin, Johannah D. Hall, and her son, Joseph Hall (Samara Parker), and a grandson Kai Parker-Hall. She is also survived by her sister-in-law, Sara M. Foster (Cameron) and her sons William Foster and Robert Foster, and her daughter Catherine Franssen (Scott) and her grandchildren Matthew Franssen (Katie) and Sara F. Wilder (Blake), and great-grandchild Abigail Wilder. She is also survived by her dear friends Roseanne Rini and Patrick Mullen, a fellow folklorist, Columbus; and by Beth Melton Lorca, Spain. She is predeceased by her brother-in-law William Harte MacLaughlin, D.D.S., and her mother-in-law Hermine Harte MacLaughlin. Jean graduated from Leon High School in 1962, where she excelled in Spanish and Debate, and after winning an Angier Biddle Duke scholarship, went to Duke for her A.B. in Spanish, with a minor in English. There she was a member of Kappa Delta Sorority, and as a gifted Musician of voice and piano, was a member of the Glee Club, Chancil Singers, Magrigal Choir, and sang the role of Gretel in the opera “Hansel and Gretel”. She was also President of Sigma Delta Pi, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society. She went on to receive a Ph.D. in Folklore, Latin America Studies and Anthropology from Indiana University in 1978. Her dissertation was titled “Peru’s Urban Migrant Children Learn Folktales: Developmental Acquisition of Narrative Skill in a Quechua-Migrant

Squatter Settlement in Arequipa”. She and her husband lived in this barrio without running water or electricity in 1971-72, while she collected children’s folktales, jokes, legends, and songs, both in Spanish and Quechua (the language of the Incas). She also taught English in the local school, and helped neighbors out with meds, vitamins, and taught a course at Universidad Catolica in Lima. Her research confirmed the work of the French Psychologist, Piaget, with regard to the ages at which children gain narrative skills, and she also found these skills ran in families, this, in a neighborhood with few TV’s, where people made their own entertainment. Her study was made possible through a Foreign Area Fellowship, funded by the Ford Foundation. In addition her other scholastic honors include a National Defense Foreign Language Fellowship (Quechua), a Woodrow Wilson Semifinalist, and a National Merit Commanded Scholar. Her interest in Latin America was helped by the Girl Scouts of USA, who chose Jean to travel to Cuernavaca and Mexico City in 1962 for a cultural exchange conference, next with their GSUSA Experiment in International Living in Argentina in 1964, first in Buenos Aires and then up to a work project building a school in Salta in the high Andes. She and her husband first travelled to Peru in the summer of 1968 on a summer linguistics program Plan de Formento Linguistico through San Marcos University under supervision of her dissertation advisor, Dr. Wolfgang Wolck, an expert in Andean linguistics and bi lingualism. The project was based in Ayacucho, a poor and remote province in the 1980’s to become the birthplace of the Sendero Luminosa Maoist rebels, and the work involved significant hiking in rural villages and farms. After receiving her Ph.D. Jean was an Associate Professor at The Ohio State University in the Department of English from 1976 to 1981. She had published several of her collected tales in Folktales Told Around The World and presented numerous papers, including “That Ain’t No Lady....Ladylike Behavior and the Women’s Movement as Depicted in Adolescent Humor, 1970-1979”, presented at the National Women’s Studies Assoc. Conference, May of 1980. In 1981-1982, she worked

as a public folklorist for the Ohio Foundation for the Arts, soon to become the Ohio Arts Council, consulting and presenting during Hispanic Week at St. Stephens, the symposium on the play of Amish and Mennonite children, the workshop "Appreciating Appalachia" sponsored by the Columbus Board of Education Multicultural Education, also assisting fellow folklorist Timothy Lloyd, OAC Director, to develop the Dayton Arts Festival. In 1982-83, Jean decided on a new career as a computer programmer, taking course work at OSU and teaching herself C and dBase II & III. She became chief programmer for GLC Systems, and with its owner, Henry Z. Schwartz, formed Cablessoft, Inc. in 1984. There she designed the Traffic System in dBase III for Time-Warner, for scheduling, billing, and customer support, as well as court-appointment and subpoena tracking system for the Ohio Attorney General's Office, her husband's Law Practice accounting programs, and many programs for numerous businesses. In 1986, she founded Athena Software, where as President/Owner, she continued to develop her computer and programming expertise. After retirement in 2007, Jean likes to read the Columbus Dispatch cover-to-cover with morning coffee while WOSU played classical music, doing the Sudoku and crosswords to keep her mind sharp, watching Downtown Abbey on PBS and following her stocks. The outings she enjoyed most were those for all three of her grandchildren's concerts, through the excellent music instruction programs at Upper Arlington Schools, and the Irish Dance recitals of her granddaughters at the Academy Dance Studio. Jean was always about expanding one's horizons and increasing our understanding of life, especially through education and hard work. She thanks all of her family and the many friends she made through teaching, through involvement with her son's school activities, Clintonville neighbors, the Staff at Friendship Village of Columbus Health Center and those she met in her business career. She had conquered the lymphoma found in February 2020 with her expert Oncologist Dr. Andrew Grainger, but the chemotherapy left her weak and without appetite. The COVID19 restrictions made visiting and communications difficult, and intubations affected her ability to converse on the phone. She requested the

poem by Mary Elizabeth Frye that begins “Do not stand at my grave and weep. I am not there” be read at a Memorial Service, and this will be held at a later date. Donations in lieu of flowers may be made to her beloved OSU, to Girl Scouts of USA, to the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers who work in education and development among the Quechua and Aymara, to the American Cancer Society, or a charity of one’s choice.

Tribute Wall



“ Elizabeth Jean MacLaughlin

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ I work as a folklorist but had never met her. A few years ago, I ran into her name when reading the book "Folktales Told Around the World." The texts that she contributed to this anthology are excellent, but her writing on the context for the stories is what really stands out. Her introductions and commentary are models for excellent writing, and I highlight her fine work when I teach the book to my students. She continues to give others great contributions for understanding what she has documented. I wanted to know more about her work, and I greatly appreciated the chance to learn about her amazing life. I wish to offer my condolences as well as my appreciation for her gifts as a folklore scholar.

Gregory Hansen - November 23, 2020 at 03:46 PM



“ I have such fond memories of the European tour that Grandmother Blalock gave us. If my memory is correct (and at my age...I could be wrong), it was the summer of 1968. It was one of those trips of visiting a different city or country almost every day with a bus load of college kids. Also, Jean arranged for us to extend our trip. We traveled by train from Paris to Spain to visit her college friend. With Jean's expert knowledge of Spanish, we had a smooth travels. We both loved Spain except for the live chickens (yes, they were animals) on the trains and the gory bull fight. Please know that you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers,
Sue Knutzen (1st cousin)

Susan H Knutzen - November 04, 2020 at 11:52 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Elizabeth Jean MacLaughlin.*



November 04, 2020 at 10:30 AM



“ *Well, Big Sister.....looks like you have left this Earthly plane and moved on to greater things. I am sorry your last months here were so wretched, but i must say that as sisters go I could not have asked for a better one. I forgave you long ago for playing those interminable piano scales after a lesson from Mrs. Steinmeyer, and I really appreciate the ride you gave me to the Hospital when I broke my arm. I enjoyed the letters you sent from that remote village in Peru, and was very impressed the you taught yourself computer programming and worked at that for so long. You and Bill always ts were the smart ones, but I don't hold that against you and neither of you ever ragged me about being as sharp in the brains department. Thank you for making the trek to Melody and Derek's wedding. I know it was a mental and physical strain for you, but it meant a lot to me, as did all the time you spent cleaning out our Tallahassee home after Mom got on the bus. Tell her and Daddy that I said hello and I'll be thinking about all of you. You were a "piece of work" Jean Mayo Macaughlin, and I will always love you.*

Please put in a kind word for me to God.....I need all the help I can get.

Love, Nathan

Nathan Mayo DDS - November 04, 2020 at 10:18 AM

JM

Beautifully written Nathan! Being 14 years older than me, Jean was already grown up and gone off to college by the time I was old enough to have any memories. But I do remember her telling us they had no running water and had to use an outhouse. Also, they had to go to the market at 4:00 a.m. for groceries, because by 6:00 all the good stuff was gone, and the only things left were already starting to go bad. She sent me a beautiful and ornately decorated and handcrafted 2 ft sword and scabbard that was my prize possession for many years. She sent our mother a small change purse that was just as beautifully decorated that she loved dearly

About eight years ago I was in Columbus working for a short time, and she took me out to lunch and dinner a few times. One place we went was a Mexican restaurant. She ordered both our meals in Spanish. The menu was WRITTEN in Spanish! Yo no habla Espanol. LOL! I helped her clean out our parents house, and it was really nice to be able to see her for a few weeks. I wish I had gotten more time to spend with her. I hate that she left us a couple of days before her birthday, but I know she was having a lot of pain & had trouble breathing the last few months. I did get to speak with her a few times over the last few months. I wish I could have seen her again.

I miss you dearly Sis. And like Nathan said, please say "hey" to Mom and Dad for me; I still miss them too. May you ALL Rest In Peace.

Joe Mayo - November 04, 2020 at 11:38 AM

KE

When I was a kid, I remember my Mom (Joan Blalock McLean) telling me about Jean and Lew going to Peru to live and sharing some of Jean's stories and experiences. It seemed so unbelievable and adventurous...and of course it was! Mom and Dad have a piece of sewn artwork that has hung on their wall for years that Jean had brought back for them.

I did not know Jean well since we never lived close by, but I know she was very special to my Mom. When I did get to spend time with Jean, she always seemed like such a fun, happy person with a great sense of humor and a true joy for life. She was a great storyteller and it was fun just to listen to stories of mundane activities that sounded so much more interesting when she talked about them! In many ways she reminded me so much of her mom, my Aunt Betty.

All my Mayo cousins were legendary for their brains...they were all so smart and well educated. While my siblings and I just had masters degrees in basic subject matters, Jean went to the best schools, had a PhD and was teaching college classes or writing computer programs! She was an accomplished, amazing woman who did important things in her own right as well as raising an equally impressive son!

Lew, Harte, Peggy, Kyle, Claire, Catherine, Bill, Nathan and Joe, I know you will miss Jean so much. It is hard to understand that she has unexpectedly left us at such a young age. We were anticipating that she would be getting better after her chemo treatments and were caught by surprise by her passing. As Nathan said, she is with Aunt Betty and Uncle Billy now, and I know they are smiling down on all of you. Rest in peace cousin Jean.

With hugs and prayers, your cousin Kathy (McLean) Eisenbeis

Kathy Eisenbeis - November 10, 2020 at 07:53 PM