



Mary Jo Cusack

December 10, 2012

CUSACK Mary Jo Cusack died December 10, 2012 in the Cardiac Intensive Care unit of Riverside Hospital. She is survived by cousins Catharine A. Regan of Evanston, Ill, Mary Pirie of Springfield, Mass., Michael and Ann Regan of San Diego. Mary Jo grew up in Canton, OH, the beloved daughter of Edward and Mary Cusack; graduated from Marquette (BA) in 1957 and The Ohio State University (JD) in 1959. She was the only woman in her graduating class. That sparked her lifelong interest in women's issues. She began her career at the Industrial Commission of Ohio and the Ohio Department of Taxation. She went into private practice in 1961 with her late law partner Francis Cortruvo. Through her personal friendships and her legal practice, Mary Jo touched the lives of many people. She was involved in many and varied organizations. She was the first woman president of the national Board of Trial Advocacy and also first woman president of the Franklin County Trial Lawyers and past president of the National Association of Women Lawyers, where she was awarded the Lifetime Service and Toch Awards, and Kappa Beta Pi, International Legal Association. She was active in local Democratic politics and served as poll watcher in the last election as a representative for the Democratic Lawyers of Columbus. She was Vice President of the Thomas Moore Society and always active in the annual Red Mass. After serving on the Riverlea Village Council for many years, she was elected mayor and served from 2004-2011. She was always active in the Pilot Club of Columbus, and served as past president. She was appointed to the Franklin County

Convention Facilities Authority Board and was especially happy to have participated in the opening of the Hilton Downtown Columbus. She enjoyed all of the cultural events in Columbus including the Symphony, BalletMet, the Broadway Series, and the Jazz Arts. She looked forward every year to the Ohio Light Opera in Wooster. She loved so much in her life: visiting with friends, cuddly animals, driving the scenic back roads of Ohio, and especially decorating and entertaining for seasonal holidays such as her annual St. Patrick's Day party. She will be missed by many friends and professional colleagues who knew of her kindness and generosity, pro bono work, and desire for fairness in all relationships. Mass of Christian Burial 10:15 am Friday, December 14, 2012 at Immaculate Conception Church, 414 E. N. Broadway, Columbus, OH. Friends may call 4-7 pm Thursday, December 13, 2012 at RUTHERFORD-CORBIN FUNERAL HOME, 515 High Street, Worthington, OH 43085. Burial St. John's Cemetery, Canton, OH. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to the Pilot Club of Columbus for a statue for the Jerrie Mock Aviatrix Project, 3241 New Gate Court, Dublin, OH 43017 or the B.R.E.A.D. Organization, 404 S. 3rd St., Columbus, Ohio 43215. Condolences may be sent to www.rutherfordfuneralhome.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Mary Jo Cusack*

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *When I found myself in a crisis with the National Board of Trial Advocacy as President, Mary Jo as a Past president was not only there for me but took the time to physically come to Washington DC to support my efforts. She did this because she cared about the organization even years after she was President. She was a good person and I consider myself fortunate to have had the opportunity to meet her and work with her to attain our goals. Thank you Mary Jo. Barry*

Barry J. Nace - August 21, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ *The Board of Directors and staff of the National Board of Trial Advocacy offer our condolences on the loss of Mary Jo Cusack, who was a highly respected member of our Board of Directors for many years. Mary Jo also served as our first female president. Her dedication to justice and this organization will not be forgotten. We extend our deepest sympathies to you and your family.*

David Rapoport - August 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ To the Family: I had the great honor of serving with Mary Jo on the NBTA Board of Directors. I got to know her well while serving on the Standards Committee of NBTA. She was always so pleasant, thorough, involved, and considerate. Since I left the Board a few years ago, I lost contact with her, so when I learned today (12/2/2012) of her death, I was particularly saddened. She was a pioneer for justice; I am thankful that she was my friend.

Thomas M. "Tom" Carpenter - December 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SL

“ I worked across from Mary Jo in the Worthington Bldg at Selby and High Street for 2-3 years. She was always smiling and always had a kind, inspirational word. I would often times run into her at the Worthington Farmers Market and other events and was amazed at the number of friends that would surround her. I know she was happy and tried to make others the same. God's Speed to you Mary Jo - you will be missed.

Shawn Little - December 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ Mary Jo was a friend and mentor for over 35 years. I met her when I was a new lawyer and living in New York, Kansas City and Washington, DC. We worked in the National Organization of Women Lawyers and in the ABA. She backed me and helped me become the first women elected and assembly delegate to the American Bar Association. It should have been her, but she selflessly helped me. Then years later, I found my self living in Riverlea near Worthington. Who was my neighbor?!!! Mary Jo! What a small world and a pleasant surprise. She was a terrific lawyer, a great friend and class act. I no longer live in Columbus--I have been gone for years--but was flying through Columbus on Thursday. I picked up a discarded paper while waiting at the airport. The paper fell open to Mary Jo's picture. Otherwise, I would not I have known of her passing. I guess it was Heavens' way of letting me know they got a new angel. Rest in peace Mary Jo, or better yet, shake things up, up there. You know how to do that. Much love.

Mary Schiavo - December 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ Mary Jo was a trailblazing woman who dedicated her life to the law, civic responsibility, her Catholic faith and community. She set an example for all. May she rest in peace.

Douglas Holmes & Tasha Allison - December 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ I was so very shocked and sorry to see Mary Jo's obituary in the paper. She was especially welcoming when we moved to Riverlea, and very kind to me when I lost my husband. She was truly an amazing woman and we will all miss her.

Linda Mercer - December 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ MJ will be sorely missed, especially by her pre "St. Patrick's day party" party friends. We would have a great time preparing her wonderful special recipes for the next day's celebration. Her fun loving generous spirit lives on in our memories.

Carmen Rincones - December 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PO

“ Our prayers & thoughts go with you Mary Jo and to your family~We will miss your friendship but are so honored to have known & had you touch our lives in so many ways. Fondly, The Thomas F. White Family(Sue, Debbie, Jean & Polly & Children)

Polly(White)Motley - December 11, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ I have had the pleasure of knowing Mary Jo for several years as she served on the CFA board. She was always so positive and joyful in spirit. She will surely be missed.

Sherry Chambers - December 11, 2012 at 12:00 AM

EE

“ My deepest sympathies to the family. Mary Jo was my good friend and a big inspiration to me and many people. I loved her very much.

Eric Eckert - December 11, 2012 at 12:00 AM