



Jo Anne Ellison

November 4, 1949 - October 29, 2020

Jo Anne Ellison of La Plata, Maryland passed away peacefully on Thursday, October 29, 2020. Our family is comforted as she is no longer in pain.

Jo Anne was born on November 4, 1949 in Riverdale, Maryland. She spent her childhood in Piscataway and relished in being a Southern Marylander her entire life. A passionate educator, she challenged herself to constantly learn and earned her master's and doctorate degrees while working and being a dedicated mother. She was also a leader in the community but most importantly, Jo Anne was a loyal and loving friend, daughter, sister and mother. Her love spread to flowers and birds as well, as she never met one she didn't like. However, many friends may recall her fondness for life did stop at all things requiring balance. Bicycles were not Jo Anne's friends.

Preceded in her death by her parents, Donald Ross Polz and Ann Marie Polz, Jo Anne is survived by her daughter, Shannon May Richmond; sisters, Kathleen Polz Daorai and Helen Marie Dwyer; brother, Robert Ross Polz; and her true love of her life and grandson, Gray Thomas Richmond. She also received endless love from 11 nieces and nephews.

In order to truly celebrate Jo Anne's life, which would be her wishes, we will be delaying her Celebration of Life until May 22, 2021. The time of the service has not been set at this time.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Parkinson's Foundation via tribute gifts at www.parkinson.org

Tribute Wall



“ *Jo Anne Ellison*

October 08, 2023 at 10:45 PM



“ *Jo Anne Ellison*

October 04, 2023 at 03:12 PM



“ *We got to know JoAnne when she was my dad's 'next door neighbor' at Sagepoint Gardens. We became close after my Dad passed through our shared love of flowers in the garden. She was a beautiful spirit who loved to create social events at Sagepoint Gardens. We will always treasure our Sunday Sings with the residents and our time spent with JoAnne. She is missed greatly. Our prayers for comfort and peace go out to her family. Dawn and Bill Nevitt*

Dawn and Bill - January 04, 2021 at 02:27 PM

PC

“ Jo Anne and I go way back. We met in the 6th grade at Brandywine Elementary School and our friendship continued right up until we spoke on the phone last month. So, I can say without question that Jo Anne was a very special person. So kind, caring and thoughtful, very patient and understanding of others. An educated lady, full of ideas and interests and always ready to help others. She really did make the world a better place. It would be wonderful to have more people like Jo Anne Polz Ellison. My deepest sympathy goes out to Shannon and Gray, she always spoke of you - to Helen, Kathy, and Bob and all family members. I feel very blessed and thankful that she was a part of my life. Rest in peace dear friend, I will miss you.

Patty Case

Patty Case - November 25, 2020 at 01:50 PM

CM

“ I worked with Jo Anne when I first started with the school system. She was a co-coordinator of the Ed Center and supervised student teachers from the University of Maryland. She was always very kind to me and to everyone at the school... and very dedicated to the students she supervised. I was happy to see her realize success behind the school system, working with the county commissioners and other organizations by sharing her knowledge and experience. I am sure she will be greatly missed by her family and friends. I am very sorry to hear this news, but glad to know her passing was peaceful and she's now at rest.

Christine Mais - November 07, 2020 at 10:22 AM

SL

“ Jo Anne was a wonderful woman and did so much to make the lives of the residents of Sage Point Gardens better. Praying for her daughter, grandson and family!

Suzanne Lee

Suzanne Lee - November 07, 2020 at 12:04 AM

PA

“ I'm so very sorry to hear of Jo Anne's passing. She was a delightful positive light in the world. I was amazed by her continued determination, passion and contributions. Shannon and family, may you find comfort in fond memories, knowing how very much she loved you all.

Rest in peace, my friend.

💜 Paige Ackelson

Paige Ackelson - November 06, 2020 at 05:53 PM

EF

“ Jo Anne was positive, optimistic and always brought out the best in others. She was a true asset to the community as an educator and facilitator for change. Her memory will live in each of us.

Emily Ferren - November 05, 2020 at 07:29 AM

MF

“ Jo Anne was a great asset to the residents at Sagepoint. The many sing a longs, kazoo practices and always trying to beat a certain resident at Scrabble. She was very instrumental at acquiring planters for the back patio so the residents could plant flowers in the Spring. I am so very sorry to learn she has passed. Sincerely,
Maribeth Furbush

Maribeth Furbush - November 02, 2020 at 12:58 PM