



Mary Jo Schildt

March 3, 1952 - May 4, 2025

Mary Jo Schildt passed away on May 4, 2025 at the age of 73. Mary Jo was an adventurous traveler, a spectacular cook, and had an infectious sense of humor. She had a lifelong love of reading and the ocean, was a fierce board game competitor, and brought a unique flair to all aspects of her life. A true child of the '60s, Mary Jo deeply believed in peace, love, and rock and roll.

Loving wife of Bob Schildt, sister to Betty Kelly (AL), Kevin Kelly (Maryann), and the late Marty Kelly, and sister-in-law to Chris Schildt and Linda Pryor. Cherished aunt to Sean, Katie (Scott), Jennifer (James), and Chris. She held a Bachelor's degree in Accounting, and achieved her CPA which she used in her work with Parker Hannifin. She grew up in New York, lived in Massachusetts, Florida, Tennessee, and recently moved to Chesapeake to enjoy her retirement reading a good book on the water. She will be profoundly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAY 8. 7:00 PM (ET)

J. T. Fisher Funeral Services Chapel
1248 N. George Washington Hwy
Chesapeake, VA

Tribute Wall

“ *Mary Jo Remembrance*

When I think of the word cousin, I particularly think of Mary Jo because that word seemed dear to her. In conversations, Mary Jo would often refer to me as “cousin”. And she was the only person I know who put the word cousin before my name on the envelopes for the cards she sent to me at Christmas.

That sign of familial connection and Mary Jo’s distinctive, deep voice are two of the first things I remember about my lovely red-headed cousin.

But there are other memories. Since Mary Jo was six years younger than me, probably the earliest is one she wouldn’t have remembered. We were at grandma’s apartment in Queens. I was perhaps 10 years old and took Mary Jo out for a walk. As we came back to the building, Mary Jo slipped and fell in a mud puddle and she and her very pretty dress were a mess when we returned to the apartment. I remember that Uncle Walter was upset with me for letting this happen, but Mary Jo didn’t seem unhappy. (Hey, what kid doesn’t like to play in the mud.)

But skip to much later years and some of my most vivid memories of Mary Jo are of her and Bob at the family reunions at Pine Lake Manor. All those Scrabble games we played because of her and Bob. Wonderful. Another very clear memory is one morning when Mary Jo and Bob rushed in late to breakfast, both with wet hair and looking like they just came out of the shower. We all let out a collective uh-huh. So, what had they been doing?

Relationships were an important part of Mary Jo’s life, and she continually forged and strengthened them. When I think of couples who are close, I think of Mary Jo and Bob. I am so glad they had each other and made a good life together, especially all those wonderful trips. (I’m very jealous.) And it was obvious how much Mary Jo loved her family and even though she lived hundreds of miles away, she always kept close to her beloved mother.

Mary Jo was also a kind person, and two instances stand out on how that affected me personally. One was after one of the family reunions when most of the family members had left, including Matt and me. Mary Jo and Bob, though, were staying longer. When we

got home, Matt realized he had left his skateboard in our room. I called Pine Lake Manor (this was pre cell phone days) and then spoke with Mary Jo. No problem, Mary Jo reassured me. She was a great organizer and problem solver and right away wrapped up this bulky skateboard and sent it back to us in Connecticut to the great delight of my son.

And then another kindness. On the first day of 2008 I slipped on ice, broke my hip and was laid up for many weeks, needing to use a walker. One day a delivery came to my front porch--a large box from a food service company. Inside were lots of delicious, frozen precooked meals sent by Mary Jo from her, Bob and the rest of the Kelly family. During a difficult time, those meals provided joy and comfort to me. Thank you, Mary Jo, and thank you for the loving life you lived and the happiness you brought to others. (And I will miss those "Cousin Marietta" cards.)

Marietta Homayonpour

Marietta Homayonpour - May 11, 2025 at 02:27 PM

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“*With a very heart I send my love, prayers and condolences to the Kelly and Schildt families. I first met Mary Jo 73 years when we were newborns living next door to each other. We shared an amazing childhood full of lots of fun and laughs and on to High School. Birthday parties, pool parties and summer chip-in parties are my fondest memories. Mary was adventurous, fun and smart. Although as years went by our distance from each other was long, she always managed to contact me when visiting her family in East Meadow. I will remember forever her beautiful free spirit. Rest in peace dear friend, until we meet again.....Diane*

Diane - May 08, 2025 at 09:17 PM