



Mary Byrne Pozzi

September 18, 1935 - October 13, 2021

Mary Byrne Pozzi passed away peacefully in the presence of her two beloved daughters on October 13, 2021 in Houston, Texas following a long illness. Also known as “Merk” by her family, she was born Mary Miles Byrne on September 18, 1935, in Shreveport, Louisiana, the youngest of two daughters of Drucilla (Braud) Byrne and Miles J. Byrne. At age six, she began attending St. Vincent’s Academy in Shreveport, and graduated in 1953. She went on to attend Northwestern University in Natchitoches, Louisiana, graduating in 1957 with a bachelor’s in education and a minor in social work. While attending Northwestern, she was active in Tri Sigma sorority (Alpha Zeta chapter); she remained active in the alumni group for six decades.

After graduating from Northwestern, Mary taught first grade in Shreveport and then moved to Houston where she taught second and third grade at Frostwood Elementary. While in Houston, she met and fell in love with Anthony Lawrence Pozzi, Jr., “Tony”. After marrying in 1971, they moved from Houston to Midland, Texas and then on to Berkeley Heights, New Jersey before settling in Houston in 1979. It was there where Mary enjoyed and excelled at mothering her two daughters. Mary always made sure every holiday and birthday was magical.

Mary faithfully tended to Tony during his long illness with cancer, and after his death in 1992, she returned to work as a librarian at Frostwood Elementary,

during which time she also became certified in library sciences and ESL instruction.

For all her life, Mary was engaged in her community, with faith, family, and books at the forefront. In Berkeley Heights, she ran the book fair for the American Association of University Women (AAUW). In Houston, she helped with the elementary school book fairs. For 35 years, she was an active member in Theresians, an international sisterhood of Christian women, including a term as President for her local Theresians VII Community. She was a faithful and active parishioner of St. John Vianney Catholic Church for 42 years, serving as Eucharistic minister, lector, and on the parish council.

Mary is lovingly remembered for her friendship, her generosity of spirit, her quick wit and endless sense of humor. She was an avid reader and gardener. In her later years, she was an ambitious traveler who set foot on five continents. All of her travels and adventures greatly enriched her endless storytelling, for which there will be no replacement.

Mary is survived by two daughters, Paula Byrne Pozzi (Dan Spinner) and Paige Elizabeth Pozzi (Arthur Norton). Mary has five beautiful grandchildren: Everette and Oliver Spinner of Darien, Connecticut, and Ila, Max and Leo Norton of Austin, Texas. She also had a special bond with her beloved dog, Molly.

A visitation will be held on Thursday, November 4, 2021, from 6PM to 8PM, with a vigil service beginning at 7PM at Dettling Funeral Home, 14094 Memorial Dr., Houston, TX 77079. The funeral Mass will begin at 10:30AM on Friday, November 5, 2021 at St. John Vianney Catholic Church, 625 Nottingham Oaks Trail, Houston, TX 77079. Funeral Mass will be followed by a reception/celebration of life from 12-3PM at Cafe Benedicte, 15455 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77079. In lieu of flowers, Mary's wish is for

donations to be made in her honor to Doctors Without Borders, Mercy Ships, or Smile Train.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 4. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Dettling Funeral Home
14094 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77079
(281) 497-2121
david@dettlingfuneral.com

Vigil Service

NOV 4. 7:00 PM (CT)

Dettling Funeral Home
14094 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77079
(281) 497-2121
david@dettlingfuneral.com

Funeral Mass

NOV 5. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. John Vianney Catholic Church
625 Nottingham Oaks Trail
Houston, TX 77079
(281) 497-1500

Reception

NOV 5. 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Cafe Benedicte
15455 Memorial Dr
Houston, TX 77079

Tribute Wall



“ *Mary Byrne Pozzi*

October 08, 2023 at 10:52 AM



“ *Mary Byrne Pozzi*

October 06, 2023 at 01:12 AM



“ *Mary Byrne Pozzi*

October 05, 2023 at 09:45 AM



“ *Mary Byrne Pozzi*

October 05, 2023 at 01:54 AM

PF

“ *Precious Paula and Paige,*

Words are inadequate to express what a dear, wonderful friend your mother was to me. Since the day when we first met teaching 2nd grade at Frostwood, she was EVER loyal and faithful, giving unconditional love and support no matter ("mattif") what! She was a port in my storm when my boat was adrift -- always there for me sharing laughter and joy with her forever fun-loving spirit. We were kindred souls, partners in crime, and we sang the same song. Her compassionate, servants heart was always ready to give, and I was a very grateful recipient of so many of her blessings. I will deeply miss her as I hold close to my heart all of the cherished memories of our many years of friendship. "Faithful friends are a sturdy shelter, whoever finds one has found a treasure." Sirach 6:14-17. I love you Mary. May the angels lead you into paradise and into the arms of Jesus.

*Love and condolences to all the family,
Patsy*

Patsy Faltisek - November 04, 2021 at 09:27 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mary Byrne Pozzi.*



November 04, 2021 at 12:42 PM

EO

“ Words can not describe how nice and wonderful mary Pozzi was, so kind hearted and thinks about others before herself and loves to see everyone around her happy no matter the circumstances.
I met Mary pozzi(fondly called mama)few year ago but it looked like I have known her for more than twenty years due to the way she accepted and treated me
I am going to miss your kind heart and love for me and the way you call my name in a special way amongst so many things
I know your lovely family is missing you already but the Lord will give them the grace to bear the loss.
Good bye mama and rest in peace

Ebele Orekoya - November 04, 2021 at 12:11 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray* was purchased for the family of Mary Byrne Pozzi.



November 03, 2021 at 09:28 PM



“ *Your Light Shines* was purchased for the family of Mary Byrne Pozzi.



November 03, 2021 at 04:49 PM



“ *Sacred Garden Spray was purchased for the family of Mary Byrne Pozzi.*



November 03, 2021 at 04:42 PM



“ *My condolences to the family on the passing of Mary. Although I know her mostly in a business way, I loved her in a personal way. She always had a joke to tell and she was always laughing. She loved to tell stories of her travels which I loved to hear. She will be missed by many. She was a very special person.*

Patty McCoy

Patricia McCoy - November 02, 2021 at 12:48 PM



“ *My sympathy to you on the passing of your mother. Mary was a special lady.*

Beverly Sandvik

Beverly Sandvik - October 31, 2021 at 12:25 PM



“ *Your Light Shines was purchased for the family of Mary Byrne Pozzi.*



October 29, 2021 at 02:03 PM



“ Beautiful Whisper was purchased for the family of Mary Byrne Pozzi.



October 27, 2021 at 12:38 PM



“ The Byrne front porch was "hang-out central" for the whole neighborhood. Dru always made us welcome. It also functioned as "Jail" for many a "kick the can" session. Merk was fun to be around. She was one of the most beautiful spirits I have ever known.

Jim Anderson - October 22, 2021 at 06:39 PM



“ Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Mary Byrne Pozzi.



October 22, 2021 at 07:26 AM



“ I remember Mary and I working the after prom party in 1993, when Paige and my daughter were graduating. There is a classic "picture of she and I sitting in an oversized rocking chair have no idea why we were doing it but it is priceless I will always remember that picture!!

Pat Sedwick - October 21, 2021 at 09:17 AM

PS

I remember working in the after prom party with Mary in 1993. It was the year our daughters Paige and Lisa 🌻 we remember working the after prom party with Mary in 1993. It was the year our daughters Paige and Lisa were graduating. For some reason Mary and I found ourselves sitting in an oversized rocking chair have no idea what made us do this but it is absolutely priceless. I will always remember this picture.

Pat Sedwick - October 21, 2021 at 09:20 AM

TF

*Mary's friendship and spirit will be missed by our family. Always the proper "put together" lady with a playful, adventurous and slightly mischievous flare. She had the kindest of hearts. The perfect blend.
The Jordan Family*

The Jordan Family - October 28, 2021 at 11:17 AM