



Mary Jean Woodward

May 22, 1931 - January 28, 2019

Mary Jean Woodward, 87, passed away peacefully with her family by her side Monday, January 28, 2019. Mrs. Woodward was born May 22, 1931 in Detroit, Michigan to Lourde and Inez Skelley. Her parents and her brother, James Skelley, precede her in death. She is survived by her husband of 68 years, E.R. 'Russ' Woodward; children Gregory R. Woodward & wife Natalie Woodward, Douglas J. Woodward, Shannon G. Berger & husband Rick Null, Jeffrey S. Woodward & wife Nancy Britton, Leslie "Shelly" Carlson and husband Stephen Schaefer. Mary Jean, "GeeGee" is survived by 9 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. Her sister Monica Ann Smith & husband Don Smith as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Mary Jean Skelley Woodward was raised in Davenport, Iowa. As a young woman, Mary Jean professionally tap danced along side her sister Monica Ann. She met the love of her life, Russ Woodward in Iowa and married April 8, 1950. Russ' career moved the family several times, but in 1967 they settled in Houston where they raised their 5 children and remained.

Mary Jean deeply loved of her family. Her family remained her first priority until her last breath. She was an enormous advocate for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Her passion remained strong through 50 years volunteer work with The Arc. Mary Jean enjoyed countless hours on the golf course and playing tennis, she was a true athlete. Most importantly she was a

compassionate, kind, loving person, who never met a stranger she didn't want to help. She always bared the burdens of others and tried to help in any way she could, she truly embodied the definition of selflessness. She is loved by all and will be deeply missed.

A Memorial Service celebrating Mary Jean's life will be held Thursday, January 31, 2019 at 3 pm. at Memorial Drive United Methodist Church, 12955 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77079. A reception will follow services in Friendship Court on the church campus. Mrs. Woodward will be laid to rest in Memorial Oaks Cemetery in a private family ceremony. In lieu of flowers please consider contributions in Mary Jean's memory to ARC of Spring Branch at www.arcofspringbranch/donate-or-join.html

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JAN 31. 3:00 PM (CT)

Memorial Drive United Methodist Church
12955 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX
<http://www.mdumc.org>

Reception

JAN 31. 4:00 PM (CT)

Memorial Drive United Methodist Church
12955 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX
<http://www.mdumc.org>

Tribute Wall



“ *Mary Jean Woodward*

October 08, 2023 at 10:52 AM



“ *Mary Jean Woodward*

October 06, 2023 at 01:12 AM



“ *Mary Jean Woodward*

October 05, 2023 at 09:45 AM



“ *Mary Jean Woodward*

October 05, 2023 at 01:54 AM



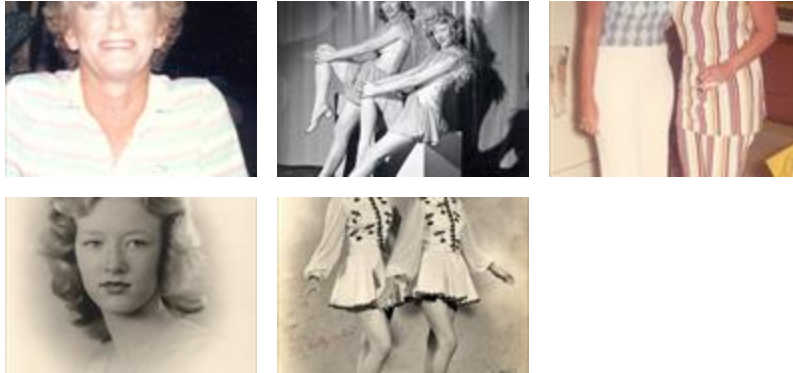
“ *My thoughts are with all of Mary Jean's family. Such a wonderful woman and so friendly and warm to me the short time I knew her. Becky Mason Healy (Ben & Sams Mom).*



Becky Mason Healy - February 01, 2019 at 09:09 PM

L“

“ 8 files added to the album Memories Album



Leslie “Shelly” - January 31, 2019 at 08:30 AM



“ *Sweet Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Mary Jean Woodward.*



January 30, 2019 at 02:17 PM

JA

“ *My heart is heavy hearing about your family's loss of Mary Jean. She was such a special person. I always loved Mary Jean's beautiful smile and laughter--and her beautiful sparkling eyes! And that's the way I'll remember her.*

Jackie Austin

Jackie Austin - January 30, 2019 at 01:46 PM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Mary Jean Woodward.*



January 30, 2019 at 01:20 PM



“ *spent 3 wonderful days eating, drinking and talking with Mary Jean at a golf atonement in North Carolina. She was so kind, informed and comforting.*



for anyone who knew her, she will be surely missed

Greg Le Grand

Greg Le Grand - January 30, 2019 at 01:02 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Mary Jean Woodward.*



January 30, 2019 at 11:49 AM

MG

“ My thoughts and prayers are with Mary Jean's family as you grieve the loss of your wonderful mother, wife, grandma, great grandma, sister and friend. There was no one like her. She was a second mother to me, even though she had her own 5 children. How did she have time for the kid next door? She just did, that was her. Always loving, kind and generous. She will be so missed.

Michele Gerard - January 30, 2019 at 10:04 AM

SG

“ Mary Jean, I know in my heart you are an angel in heaven right now. And, you are watching over all your adult children right now. You are the sweetest and kindest wife and mother I have ever known. I have been blessed to have known you! I wish to be half the wife and mother that you have been to your family! I loved the way you spoke to Doug on the phone when he called you on your cell. I admire you greatly! You are an angel sent by God to be in my life and I'm so grateful for you! Sweet lady I will miss you so! 💖💖💖🥺

Sylvia Garcia - January 29, 2019 at 10:55 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mary Jean Woodward.



January 29, 2019 at 06:50 PM

MS

“ *Monica (Mike) and Don Smith purchased the Full Heart for the family of Mary Jean Woodward.*



Monica (Mike) and Don Smith - January 29, 2019 at 12:55 PM



“ - *purchased the Simply Chic Mixed Plant Basket for the family of Mary Jean Woodward.*



-- January 29, 2019 at 12:55 PM

MW

“ *I will always remember the stories my Mom and Mary Jean would tell about growing up, tap dancing, and of course, their families. Laughter was always a requirement during those times and it was fun to just sit and listen. They had a bond that was unbreakable. I believe she is in heaven looking out for Mom and waiting to have those long conversations again. Our love to you all. Mickey Welling*

Mickey Welling - January 29, 2019 at 12:21 PM