



## Mary Joan Battisfore

August 27, 1933 - January 13, 2018

Mary Joan Battisfore, 84, of Charlotte, died peacefully on Saturday, January 13, 2018. Mary was born August 27, 1933 in Youngstown, OH, the daughter of Burl Lloyd and Audrey Marie (Adams) Putnam. Mary grew up in Denison, OH, before attending St. Francis Hospital School of Nursing in Hamtramck. She worked as a nurse for 26 years at St. Lawrence Hospital in Lansing. She married Donald John Battisfore on February 4, 1967 at St. Mary Cathedral in Lansing. Following her retirement from nursing in 1979, Mary and Don moved to Houghton, MI, where they owned and operated the Portage Motel. After Don's death in 1996, Mary moved to Charlotte, MI in 1998. She worked 10 years for the Hayes Green Beach Hospital as a unit clerk. Throughout her life, Mary remained a dedicated and faithful Catholic, contributing to her church, St. Mary in Charlotte.

Mary is survived by her 8 children, Diana (Joe) Bartolacci, Elaine (John) Doctor, Jean (Craig) Boven, Randy Battisfore, Ben Battisfore, Dona (Gary) Battisfore-Krebs, Joe (Joye) Battisfore and Roger Battisfore; 16 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; brother, Neil (Shirley) Putnam; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband, Donald Battisfore; and her siblings, James (Rita) Fry, Audrey (Philip) Alber, Margaret (Anthony) Altier, Patricia (Roy) Walker, Jean (Raymond) Kauffman, Robert (MaryAnn) Putnam, and John (June) Putnam.

A Memorial Mass will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 20, 2018 at St. Mary Catholic Church in Charlotte with Rev. Fr. Dwight Ezop officiating. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the church. Interment will take place in Maple Hill Cemetery in Charlotte. If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to St. Mary Catholic Church in Charlotte or Eaton Community Palliative Care. Friends and family are encouraged to share memories of Mary on her Tribute Page at [www.PrayFuneral.com](http://www.PrayFuneral.com). The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

# Events

---

**JAN** **Visitation** 10:30AM - 11:30AM

**20**

St. Mary's Church

US

**JAN** **Memorial Service** 11:30AM - 12:30PM

**20**

St. Mary's Church

US

# Comments

---



“ I had more fun with Mary Jo than a person could possibly imagine. After retiring in 1999 I started to visit my cousins who lived in Marquette. There I met her son Joe Battisfore and his family. Thru them I met Mary Jo, she was one of the funniest people I'd ever talked to, absolutely hilarious. I would stop to spend several days with her in Charlotte whenever traveling to Marquette and on my return to Maryland. We made it a point to go to The Eaton Place for a giant BLT sandwich, it was one of the routines during my visits. Thru her I also met all the family that lived around Charlotte. I will always have fond memories of her and I will miss the visits to Charlotte now that she is no longer there. She is with my cousin Donald and they are having a good time. She was a great lady, may she rest in peace.

Corky Battisfore

Corky Battisfore - February 13, 2018 at 12:38 PM

---



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Mary Joan Battisfore.



January 19, 2018 at 04:03 PM

---



“ Roger T Battisfore lit a candle in memory of Mary Joan Battisfore



Roger T Battisfore - January 18, 2018 at 08:37 PM

---



“ We used to love on a dirt road that was kind of outside the city where we lived. My brother and I would sometimes play hookie and "accidentally" miss the bus. Mom never brought us to school or yelled. She just enjoyed her youngest children and had a day with us. I can still hear her singing while doing stuff in the kitchen or throughout the house. A habit she carried with her until the day she died. I'm very blessed, as all

of her children are, to have had her as a mom. Amongst the many, many, things I will miss, I believe I will miss the games we used to play when it came to her Christmas Cookies. She would make a ton of different kinds and every year I would try to sneak a batch out only to get caught. I never could put anything past her. Some of my fondest memories of when I was a kid, sitting on the floor at the end of the hallway that led into the living room, and listened to her play the piano. I cannot count how many times I did that. Every single time I enjoyed myself and learned something new. One of my biggest inspirations both as a person and a musician. The best mom ever!



Roger T Battisfore - January 18, 2018 at 08:36 PM

---



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Joan Battisfore.



January 18, 2018 at 03:34 PM

---



“ " The notes I handle no better than many pianists. But ... the pauses between the notes .... ah, that is where the art resides." Arthur Schnabel

Aunt Mary Jo began her piano studies on an old upright ... the kind that it took 6 men and a horse to move. Those old ivory keys knew a lot of activity ... from Aunt Mary's practices and special occasions that sprung up for Pinoccle nights and Get togethers at the Putnam House ! On those nights, as was Grandma;s custom , .... she'd get everyone fed and watered ... then she'd head in to piano and play her favorite Irish Songs ... " Take me Home again, Kathleen" and such. Pretty soon the piano was surrounded by everyone who felt the urge to sing !

That old piano had a good run , but it became time for a serious discussion whether getting a better one to take it's place.... was necessary.

I don't recollect how old I was .... but I was old enough that I remember that special "Day of Deliverance "

Aunt Mary Jo had come home for a week's stay. One morning, Grandma declared that we all had to get " our Sunday go to Meetin' " clothes on ..... and the air was filled with excitement ! Towards afternoon, a Huge Semi Truck pulled up beside the front porch. Men got out and put a plank down so that we could all get up inside the

Truck Bed. I was stunned to see pianos .... all different kinds of pianos !!! ..... inside that Truck Bed. !! Aunt Mary Jo played on every one !! When she had made her choice , .... she settled up with the men .... and the " Brand spankin' new Gulbranson Piano was brought into the Music Room !!! What a great day that was !!! And .... what great days followed for years to come !!!

Everyone who wanted to play it ... sat down and played it !!! .... Grandma, Aunt Mary Jo, Aunt Audrey, Paul , Tom , Mary Therese , Me .., and my Daughter, Audrey sat at the bench ,as she learned how to play !! Even my Mom , after her Breast Cancer diagnosis , asked me to give her lessons. Mom said that she'd always wanted to learn to play the piano , but Grandma didn't have the extra money for BOTH She and Aunt Mary to have lessons. So ... as fate turned out ... My Mom became the Cheerleader and Aunt Mary became the Pianist.

Grandma knew that Aunt Mary Jo would be someone who knew the notes, someone who felt the melody and expressed the music ... and most importantly, someone who would know when and how to pause.

Grandma was a smart woman. !!!! Aunt Mary Jo was an Excellent Pianist !!!!

Patty Lou xo (\*.\* ) xo

Patricia Johnson - January 18, 2018 at 01:09 PM

---



“ I loved working with Mary , she was always fun!

Sheila Hall - January 17, 2018 at 06:10 PM

---



“ Our Family Background incudes a blood connection with the " Cherokee Nation of Native Americans. In studying Indian Folklore , I have a book of proverbs. A " Ute" proverb says " " God gives us each a song." I believe that Aunt Mary Jo's song was one of Love.

She shared that love with Friends and Family alike.

One of her very special Friends, from childhood, was Audrey Rotundo. Audrey was diagnosed with scleroderma at the young age of 40. Aunt Mary Jo remained steadfast in their friendship, with care and encouragement, until Audrey's death. Another Sister ( from another Mother ) was Mary Jo Lunsford. Mary Jo was born with a physical birth defect of having only stubs for her fingers and toes. Any one else may have given up, but she overcame her adversity and became well educated and earned a very good living for herself. Yes, indeed, the Dynamic Duo of Mary Jo's had times of Joy and Merriment in Michigan , as well as Ohio, when they came to visit.

After a time , following my Mother's Death ,... Aunt Mary Jo called and invited her two remaining Sisters ...Pat and Marg ... and myself, to come North to Houghton , Michigan for a weeks stay ... to help us all get through the grieving of my Mother, Jean.

It is a memory that I will never forget ... as .... I experienced my first plane trip ... my

first look of the world from the grandeur of the Upper Peninsula in the Autumn. ... I tasted my first " Pasty" ... and went to the Indian Reservation Casino ... ( we didn't hit the BIG money ... but we had a lot of fun ! )

Aunt Mary Jo knew many places of interest including an old time Bar with lovely stained glass windows / lights and gorgeous wooden furnishings. All of us were in total agreement that we should stay in the establishment and rest our weary feet from walking around the " Copper Country". We ate a delicious meal and toasted our wonderful time together.

In wrapping up this memory, I will quote another Indian Proverb ... " The Soul would have no Rainbow, if the eyes had no tears." ) Miquass Tribe)

With the encouragement that Aunt Mary Jo would give me .... I shall keep an eye out for the Rainbows.

Patty Lou

Patricia Johnson - January 16, 2018 at 01:17 PM

---



“ Shannon Carpenter lit a candle in memory of Mary Joan Battsfore



Shannon Carpenter - January 16, 2018 at 03:21 AM

---



“ Patricia Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mary Joan Battsfore



Patricia Johnson - January 15, 2018 at 06:41 PM

---



“ "Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Some stay for awhile and leave footprints in our hearts and we are never, ever the same."

When I was born and brought to the Putnam Homestead, Aunt Mary Jo had .already, graduated from high school and moved on to Michigan to live with Her Sister and attend Nurses Training. She traveled home to Ohio when time allowed her a couple of days off.

On bright Summer days ... when the windows and doors were all open and Aunt Mary Jo would sit down to play the piano ... I used to get a popsicle and sit on the bank of the hill ...right off of the front porch .... listening to the beautiful music. Aunt Mary Jo's touch on the keys was magnificent. Neighbors would walk by , with smiling faces , wave, and holler .... " Mary must be home" !!! I'd sit there on that bank as long as she played.

Aunt Mary was an inspiration. Throughout her life , she valued the " Good Things" ... showing excellent taste in music, clothing, Home decor , cars, and food.

She kept her Catholic Faith close to her Heart and strove to achieve the Joys of the Spirit : Love, Joy, Peace, Patience , Kindness, Goodness, Faith , Gentleness and Self Control. It was my belief that she achieved the goals and high expectations that she set for herself... but, she would say that the " Serenity Prayer" was a reliable tool to maintain her faith , at times.

At St. Mary's she was a good student and Head Musician for the choir... rising very early in the morning to play and sing the 6 o'clock Mass , by herself.

She was a well respected Nurse.

She happily married a widower, taking on the challenge and responsibilities of being a Helpmate and a Mother to 6 children... adding 2 more Sons to the Battisfore Family... all while running the Portage Motel.

Mary Jo Putnam Battisfore was a Loving Daughter, a Trusted / Beloved Sister and a Precious Aunt, who taught Me Invaluable Things.

Those who live splendid lives will never be forgotten.

I loved her very much. I will never forget her.

Patty Lou xo (\*.\* ) xo

Patricia Johnson - January 15, 2018 at 06:39 PM

---



“ Ruth Whitney lit a candle in memory of Mary Joan Battisfore



Ruth Whitney - January 15, 2018 at 12:21 PM



“ Suzanne Battsfore Sheckels lit a candle in memory of Mary Joan Battsfore



**suzanne battsfore sheckels** - January 14, 2018 at 07:00 PM

---



“ Mike & Peggy Kukanich lit a candle in memory of Mary Joan Battsfore



**Mike & Peggy Kukanich** - January 14, 2018 at 06:38 PM