



Mrs. Mary Jo Ryan

SEP 21, 1948 - NOV 10, 2025



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Mary Jo Ryan, a cherished light in the lives of all who knew her, passed away peacefully on November 10, 2025, in Dadeville, Alabama. Born on September 21, 1948, in Larimore, North Dakota, Mary's journey through life was marked by her creative spirit, loving nature, and dedication to her family and community.

Mary's legacy is carried on by her devoted husband of 53 years, Dennis Ryan of Dadeville, AL; her loving daughter, Kelly (Brad) Lee of Birmingham, AL; her proud sons, Patrick (Robyn) Ryan of Conway, SC, and Michael (Allison) Ryan of Haughton, LA. She was the adored grandmother to Harris, Taylor, Morgan, Kate, Matthew, and Caroline, each of whom brought great joy to her life. Mary is also survived by her caring sisters, Judy (Larry) Hensel, Pat (Earl) Kessler, and Jan (Bob) Peterson. Her guiding light will be missed by her extended family and friends. Mary was preceded in death by her parents, whose values and love laid the foundation for the extraordinary person she became.

Mary's career in elementary education spanned two decades, reflecting her passion for nurturing young minds. She began as a substitute teacher, bringing enthusiasm and adaptability to every classroom she entered. As a Physical Education teacher, she instilled the importance of health and teamwork in her students. Her empathy and understanding shone brightly in her role as a Special Education teacher, where she touched the lives of many children with special needs. Mary concluded her career as a School Counselor, where her wise counsel and compassionate nature supported countless students through their formative years.

Beyond her professional achievements, Mary's artistic talents were a beacon of her creative soul. She crafted beautiful angel dolls for those in need, providing comfort and hope during difficult times. Her skillful hands also created treasured pillows with sewn pictures for families of deployed military personnel, bringing them a sense of connection and warmth. Mary's love for swimming was matched only by her joy in cooking and baking with her grandchildren, creating memories and delicacies that will be cherished forever.



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An avid reader and traveler, Mary's curiosity and zest for life led her to explore the world and the many wonders within the pages of books. Her involvement with Red Ridge United Methodist Church was a testament to her faith and commitment to her community.

Mary's life was a tapestry woven with love, care, and creativity. Those who knew her will remember her as a beautiful wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend. Her absence will be deeply felt, but the love and lessons she imparted will continue to resonate in the hearts of those she touched. Mary Jo Ryan leaves behind a legacy of love, a testament to a life well-lived and a woman dearly loved.

A celebration of Mary's life will be held in June 2026.



Tribute Wall

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Nancy Anderson Faber posted:

Mary Jo and my Sis Gin were great mischievous friends. She was so beautiful as Maid of Honor at Gin's wedding. Mary Jo was kind to us little kid siblings. Her humor and laugh were infectious. RIP dear lady. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

December 6 at 7:42 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Mary by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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