



## Mary Jo Fruth

August 29, 1943 - June 6, 2026

Mary Jo Fruth, 82, of Napoleon, Ohio passed away on Saturday, June 6, 2026, at Northcrest Nursing and Rehab. She was born in Napoleon on August 29, 1943, to the late Julian and Helene (Speiser) Gilliland. Mary Jo married Paul E. Tonjes on Augusts 29, 1963 and he preceded her in death on August 11, 2010. She married Jay Fruth on May 6, 2023.

Mary Jo was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Napoleon. She loved the outdoors and enjoyed camping, snowmobiling, and taking walks along the river. Mary Jo loved having her family close, especially for Christmas and pool parties where she would tempt everyone with her delicious baking. Her family was her greatest joy, especially her grandchildren.

Mary Jo is survived by her husband, Jay; children, Jamie (Julie) Tonjes, and Janine Tonjes; grandchildren, Josh (Katelyn) Tonjes, Alex Tonjes, and Chelsea (Craig) Wanless; great grandchildren, Emma, Brock, and Mason; and siblings, Judy Cotter, David (Ron) Gilliland, and Jan (Susie) Gilliland. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her first husband, Paul Tonjes; and brother-in-law, Gerald Cotter.

Friends and family will be received at the Rodenberger-Gray Funeral home, Napoleon on Wednesday, June 10, 2026, from 9:00 AM until the time of services at 12 noon. Interment will follow at Glenwood Cemetery, Napoleon. In

lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Henry County Humane Society, Elara Caring Hospice, or Northcrest Nursing and Rehab. Online condolences may be shared with the family at [rodenbergergray.com](http://rodenbergergray.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Glenwood Cemetery

Napoleon, OH 43545

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 10. 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Rodenberger Funeral Home - Napoleon  
1010 Westmoreland Avenue  
Napoleon, OH 43545

## Funeral Service

JUN 10. 12:00 PM (ET)

Rodenberger Funeral Home - Napoleon  
1010 Westmoreland Avenue  
Napoleon, OH 43545

# Tribute Wall

JG

“ Dear David, Judi & Jan,  
With heartfelt sympathies to you and your families.  
My memories of Mary Jo compliment her devotion to life! In spite of the hardships with her health, she carried on, facing whatever life presented her. What courage and faith she had! May she now enjoy the comfort and peace in Heaven that she so deserves. ~ Hugs, love & prayers,  
Your cousin, Julie

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**Julianna Gatza** - June 09 at 02:06 PM

JT

“ Mom, I know you are in Heaven now with Jesus. I will miss you soooooo much! You were a great mom! Too many great memories to share here, but I will always have those memories in my heart. Rest in Peace, and I will see you once again when I join you in Heaven. Love you always, mom.

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**Jamie Tonjes** - June 08 at 10:54 AM

SA

“ Sally lit a candle in memory of Mary Fruth



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**Sally** - June 08 at 08:01 AM

JT

“ Mom, you were the best mother a daughter could ever hope for. We may have had our differences, and we butt heads alot 😊, but I have always respected and admired the strong, beautiful, compassionate woman that you were, and the mother that you were for Jamie & I. You were our rock; we were blessed to have you as our mother. You were and still are beautiful inside and out, and so deeply loved by so many. I love you more than I have words for, and always will. I miss you so much. I pray that you are resting easy in the arms of the angels, and I hope you get to meet Dale Earnhardt! I promise to look after Jay as best I can. Until I see you again, love you with all of my heart.



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**Janine Tonjes** - June 07 at 09:42 PM

CS

“ Cousins: Tim & Tom Speiser purchased the Love's Journey for the family of Mary Jo Fruth.



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**Cousins: Tim & Tom Speiser** - June 07 at 08:13 PM