



Mary Ann Mazenko

February 11, 1937 - December 15, 2019

Dateline: Godfrey

Mary Ann Mazenko, 82, died at 7:10 p.m. Sunday, December 15, 2019 at Morningside of Godfrey. She was born February 11, 1937. An Alton native and second daughter of Dr. John D. and Charlotte “Pat” McDonald, Mary Ann graduated from Marquette High School and attended the University of Illinois, where she earned a degree in journalism. After working several years in advertising copy and public relations with Stix, Baer, & Fuller, she married Francis Mazenko and left the workforce to devote her time to raising three children.

When her children began school, Mary Ann returned to work as medical writer for St. Joseph’s Hospital. She joined the Alton Telegraph in 1981 as a local beat writer before transitioning to feature writing. Mary Ann wrote for the Telegraph for many years, eventually serving as the Family Page editor and spotlighting cultural highlights of the River Bend area. She also remained focused on the medical field, and her investigative reporting and feature writing won numerous press association awards and accolades. She wrote with skill and integrity, often developing ongoing friendships with those she interviewed.

Mary Ann loved her garden and worked joyfully with her husband Fran to

create a virtual botanical garden in the backyard of their home. Their garden won second prize in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch garden contest in 2005. An avid reader, her love of books led to many hours of service on the Hayner Library Board.

Mary Ann, known for her gracious, kind nature, was always ready with a smile, hug, and listening ear. She will be greatly missed.

She married Francis B. "Fran" Mazenko on April 25, 1964 in Alton. He preceded her in death on March 6, 2019. Surviving are two daughters, Megan Walters (Tom) of Chatham, IL and Beth Cullum (David) of Janesville, WI, one son, Michael Mazenko (Julie) of Denver, CO, 10 grandchildren, Matthew Walters (fiancé Jenna Cusamono), Ryan Walters, Rebekah Cullum, Jacob Cullum, Joshua Cullum (Courtney), Anna Cullum, Caleb Cullum, Molly Cullum, Austin Mazenko and Chloe Mazenko, one sister, Charlotte Stetson of Godfrey, and a sister-in-law, Denise McDonald of Marquette, MI. Along with her parents and husband she was preceded in death by a brother, Kevin McDonald. Visitation will be from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Friday, December 27, 2019 at Gent Funeral Home in Alton. A Mass of Christian burial will be at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, December 28, 2019 at St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Godfrey. Father Steven Janoski and Deacon Bill Kessler will officiate. Burial will be at St. Patrick's Cemetery in Godfrey. Memorials may be made to the Missouri Botanical Gardens or Hayner Library. Online guestbook and information may be found at www.gentfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

St. Patrick's Cemetery

Godfrey, IL 62035

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 27. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home & Cremation Services
2409 State Street
Alton, IL 62002
(618) 466-5544
<https://www.gentfuneralhome.com/>

Mass of Christian Burial

DEC 28. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Ambrose Catholic Church
820 West Homer Adams Pkway
Godfrey, IL 62035

Tribute Wall



“ *Mary Ann Mazenko*

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *Mary Ann Mazenko*

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *I loved Mary Ann. I knew her for years, she wrote garden features about my local nursery. Was shocked to hear of her death, and regret not being at the visitation. My heartfelt condolences to her family.*

Ann Christine kelley - August 08, 2020 at 01:15 PM



“ *Knowing Mary Ann has left me with a lifetime of memories. I cherish the many fun times from our youth and am grateful to her as my Maid-or-honor at my wedding. She shared her many talents and loves with me and was a true, loyal and loving friend. She will be missed by many!*

Mary Ann Bray - December 26, 2019 at 08:59 PM



“ *Cousin Dan Hopgood purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Mary Ann Mazenko.*



Cousin Dan Hopgood - December 25, 2019 at 07:49 PM

DS

“ *A Classy Gal - A Class Act - That's how Rita and I fondly remember Mary Ann. We worked together for several years at The Telegraph -- back in the day, as they say. Not long after The Telegraph ownership changed, I moved on.*

In recent years, I visited Fran and Mary Ann when I was in Godfrey for a fishing trip. I timed my visits for late afternoon, when it was close enough to 5 o'clock for gin and tonics. Fran, Mary Ann and I talked about our kids and grandkids, gardening, reading, journalism, our mutual newspaper colleagues. If it wasn't too hot, we toured the garden, which I greatly admired.

In addition to Megan, Beth Michael and their families, many people in many places will miss Mary Ann.

D.G. & Rita Schumacher, Little River, S.C.

D.G. Schumacher - December 22, 2019 at 08:35 PM

DF

“ *Mary Ann and Fran were my next door neighbors for 8 years,. You could find them working hard together in their beautiful yard any day of the week. The best neighbors ever. Miss you both especially at Christmas. Love, Darlene*



Darlene Fisher - December 22, 2019 at 08:34 AM