



JoAnn "Jo" Portman

MAR 27, 1932 - AUG 17, 2010



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DOVIN AND REBER JONES
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JoAnn "Jo" Portman

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JoAnn Josephine (White) "Jo" Portman March 27, 1932 – August 17, 2010

Born in Lorain, Ohio, she was the daughter of Joseph and Margaret (nee Barish) Wuitowicz. Orphaned at the age of 3, she later moved to Oberlin, and lived at Green Acres Orphanage. In her early years, she worked at Ben Franklin store in Oberlin at the candy counter. During high school she found her soulmate, high school sweetheart and partner for life, Doren Clemons Portman. After graduating Oberlin High School in 1950, she graduated from the Cleveland School of Cosmetology. In 1951, she and Doren were married in Dallas, TX, where he was stationed in the Air Force. She worked as a stylist during their time in the service, spending a few years in Tucson, Arizona before returning to Oberlin where she made her home for many years before moving to Amherst in 2001.

She had a special interest in enhancing the lives of young children and began a career in early childhood education at a private center in Lorain and later worked in Oberlin as a dedicated educator for the Head Start program for many years. Then together with Doren, they founded Portman Tree Service and for the next 30 years, she relished the friends she made during this time in business. She was active in the community, volunteering in the public schools and was a member of the Oberlin Community Players theater group.

Jo was an artist and enjoyed photography and painting, winning recognition and awards for her works. She became friends of Kjell Sandved and collected his photography from his lifetime work in nature for the Smithsonian. She enjoyed traveling, especially to the west and southwest with a keen interest in American Indian culture. Her true joy was found spending time with her family, preparing meals and celebrating life with those she loved.

She leaves to celebrate her life, her loving husband of 59 years, Doren Clemons Portman; her daughter, Laura Portman Iskenderian; her son, David Portman and daughter-in-law, Becky; her dearly loved Zander and Christopher; the Stevens family; 7 grandchildren and a host of friends.



Obituary

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She was preceded by her grandson, Elvis Ian Iskenderian in 2005; her parents Joseph and Margaret (nee Berish) Wuitowicz; her brothers, Joseph and Steve Wuitowicz; and favorite Aunt Cleo and Uncle Judd.

The family extends their gratitude with sincere appreciation for your comforting expression of sympathy rendered through every act of kindness shown during the time of our bereavement.

You are invited to a celebration of Jo's life – this is a casual occasion – bring memories to share, food and drink will be served. It will be held Sunday, August 29th from 1p.m. – 5p.m. at the former Single Tree Winery, 12488 Baumhart Road, Oberlin, Ohio. RSVP Laura @ 440-935-1149. Burial at Cleveland Avenue Cemetery, Amherst, is private. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in memory of Ian Iskenderian to The Treatment Advocacy Center, 200 North Glebe Road, Suite 730, Arlington, VA 22203, a non-profit organization dedicated to eliminating barrier to treatment of severe mental illness.

The Dovin and Reber Jones Funeral & Cremation Center, 1110 Cooper Foster Park Road, Amherst, is handling the arrangements. To send online condolences, go to www.dovinreberjones.com.



Tribute Wall

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JF

Juanita Orona - Lorain, Oh - Friend posted:

I only knew Joann a couple of months but in those couple of months she shared so many memories about her life. She was a wonderful woman with so many talents, she loved life & her family. Dorin you were the love of her life...she didn't want to go but her time to rest had come. I pray peace for your great loss. Joann would hound me to hurry up & sign my son up for preschool the day I did she passed away.....Joann I will miss u!!! Funny smart & kind...God rest your soul

August 24 at 8:00 PM

DF

David K. Laczko - Oberlin, Oh - Neighbor/Friend posted:

Dear Doren. Laura, David and your extended family, My deepest sympathy upon the loss of JoAnn. There is much of her achievements I knew, some not known before, some now remembered and all admirable. We have been neighbors for so long and having you next door was a comfort and at times real help as well and so appreciated. JoAnn telephoned me about two years ago and I was glad to hear from her and her comments helped me then a great deal as always. I pray that her warmth and wisdom continue to give you comfort as surely they will. David Laczko

August 23 at 8:00 PM

SF

Steve Gallion - Wellington, Oh - Friend posted:

Dorn, I am really sorry for your loss. You have known my mother and dad a long time. Thanks for all you did for. Steve & Alice Gallion

August 22 at 8:00 PM

EI

Elvis Iskenderian posted:

WE HAVE LOVED HER DURING LIFE LET US NOT ABANDON HER UNTIL WE HAVE CONDUCTED HER BY OUR PRAYERS INTO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD. MY JESUS HAVE MERCY ON THE SOUL OF JOANN PORTMAN

August 22 at 8:00 PM

DD

Debbie Cowger - Amherst, Oh - Friend Of Doren posted:

My heartfelt sympathy at the loss of your dear 'Jo'. I enjoyed reading her tribute in the Morning Journal-she was truly a talented, generous and busy lady! Blessings and Prayers Debbie

August 21 at 8:00 PM



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EF

Ed & Deanna (Harley) Gottschling - Mesa, Az - Personal Friends posted:

We have many fond memories of times we spent together. I recall JoAnn being crowned Queen at her Senior Prom in 1950 (I still have the photo) and other fun times. Once a Queen always a Queen and that she was. Doren, Laura & David, may you find Peace within knowing other share your loss. We offer our sincere condolences. Distance will not allow us to attend her celebration of life but we will celebrate with you within our hearts. Sincerely, Ed & Deanna (Harley) Gottschling formerly of Oberlin & Amherst, OH

August 21 at 8:00 PM

BF

Bill & Kay Currier - Amherst, Oh - Friend posted:

We were saddened to read of JoAnn's passing. Our deepest sympathies to Doren, Laura & David and their families. Bill & Kay Currier

August 20 at 8:00 PM

RF

Robin Lounsborough Meadows - Oberlin, Oh - Friend posted:

Dear Laura, Mr. Portman, & David, My mom, Marion Yonkings, met and was friends with your mom when they lived in Green Acres. I have a few photos of your mom I will look for and give you. Your family was always wonderful to my family and for that, I thank you. Your mom was very nice to me my sister. She'll be missed by many. Love, Robin

August 19 at 8:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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