



Mary Kathryn Volkerding Porter

April 15, 1955 - January 4, 2021

Mary Kathryn Volkerding Porter, of Cape Girardeau, went to meet her Lord and into the arms of loving family on January 4, 2021 as a result of Covid-19. She was 65 years old.

Mary was born at Saint Francis Hospital in Cape Girardeau on April 15, 1955 to Glenn Wilson and Lottie Motina (Bates) Volkerding, who both preceded her in death. She was also preceded in death by three brothers, Larry, Michael and Steve Volkerding; as well as a nephew, Stacy Volkerding, all of Cape Girardeau, her grandparents as well as her aunts and uncles.

She is most immediately survived by her fur babies, dachshunds Izzy and Ryker, who were as devoted to her as she was to them. Many days, they were her sole source of companionship and she dedicated her life to making a good life for them. Her daughter, the former Traci Nichole Eaker, also survives, as well as four grandchildren Mary adored, her brother John, one niece, one nephew and a handful of loving cousins and devoted friends. In her youth, she made her way through the Cape Public School system, from Jefferson Elementary to the Cape Central High graduating class of 1973. Mary also pursued some studies at SEMO University. Through the years, she held clerical and sales positions with Landgraf Real Estate, Empire Gas and Claire's Boutique. Later, she owned and operated "For Wags and Whiskers", a not-for-profit thrift store in Jackson, to benefit no-kill animal shelters and other animal protection causes. This sprung from her love of all animals which began in her youth. As the years passed and she faced increasing health

challenges, Mary lived more and more of her life online. She amassed a large number of friends and followers in the Facebook community, many of whom have expressed deep sorrow at her passing. She was always there to pray with or for them, offer an encouraging word, celebrate or sympathize, even at those times when she needed them for herself. That's why she was such a beloved fixture on Facebook. Her final posting there, in fact, was a request for prayers that she survive her Covid-19 infection, and a multitude of prayers went up. Sadly for us, her recovery was not in God's plan, because he obviously needed another beautiful flower for his garden. Remember Mary for her kindness, a loving heart she opened to so many, her strong Christian faith, her love for all God's creatures, her artistic and poetic talents, the fun-loving free spirit of her youth or for a myriad of other things which made Mary uniquely Mary.....and not for the challenges which plagued her in her later years. Above all, she was a child of a God who forgave her transgressions and welcomed her to her Heavenly home. Go rest high on that mountain, cousin. Our deepest gratitude goes out to our Ford and Sons "family" and Coroner Wavis Jordan for their kindness and wise counsel. Memorial donations are appreciated and should be directed to The Humane Society of Southeast Missouri.

A memorial service will be planned at a later date.

Tribute Wall

JJ

“ My world became a little smaller on January 4 2021 when my friend of 50 years, Mary Porter, was called home to her Savior. I miss her everyday and selfishly wish she was still here on earth. But she's in HEAVEN. No pain no sadness. I pray for the peace that only Jesus can bestow. We will meet again.

Jayne.elizabeth jones - February 16, 2021 at 10:20 PM

VR

So glad Mary had you in her life showering her with unconditional love. God bless you and keep you!

Victoria Roundtree - February 17, 2021 at 05:32 PM

JG

“ I will miss u my friend, always loved talking with u an us praying for each other. Fly High With THE ANGELS my friend. As we know ur dancing in the sky just lije the dong says. Till we meet again on the other side. RIP MARY

Jackie Gibson - February 04, 2021 at 10:35 PM

BW

“ To my friend in Heaven, never did I think you would go at this age, or that it would be to this awful covid, you had suffered so many things in your life that were life challenging....and you made it through....we shared the fact that you got married 9 days before I did and we had our first child 9 days apart.....after spending many happy and funny times together while we carried out girls.....you had a beautiful soul and anyone who really knew you knew that.... you hid your feelings for so much by your tough persona and never wanted any one to know.....I will never forget our fun times together and our long talks in these last years....had just had a long one with you about a month before you left for your big trip.....God I know welcomed you with open arms and now you rest in a place where you have no more health problems or worries.....I know this because you forgave everyone for anything they had done to you....and always looked for the good in people and humanityso I know God forgave anything that you needed forgiveness forand open the door and welcomed you into your eternal home.....for the ones that are left behind that did not share that forgiveness.....I know you are praying for them as I write this. You did not have a mean bone in your body and you were dealt many blows in your life.....for people that thought otherwise of youthey should have walked a mile in your shoes for truly life turned you the way you were....but never did you ever forget our friendship and through my cancer twice, I had your prayers and support, and so I say....I love you and I will miss you, I will miss our talks and texts.....and how you laughed.....I will see you again for sure....and it won't even be that long, we are all on the edge of old and gone. So save me a spot so we can catch up on all the news!

Beth Wessell - February 03, 2021 at 07:47 AM

VR

Sounds like Mary was lucky to have you as a friend. God bless you!

Victoria Roundtree - February 04, 2021 at 10:51 PM

LF

“ *What a beautiful tribute to a beautiful person. Although I never met Mary personally, like so many others I grew to know her through social media and soon realized she had a heart of gold. Thank you, dear Mary, for touching so many lives. You are sorely missed but you are with God now.*

Linda Farrar - February 01, 2021 at 02:15 PM

VR

“ *Because I married at 19 and moved away my fond memories of my sweet cousin are childhood ones---summers together on the farm in Gordonville with Gramma Omie after Grampa Louis died---Mary, Steve and I had some high old times there! We had plenty of fun at Aunt Lottie and Uncle Wilson's as well. I especially remember watching the Wizard of Oz more than one spring which is when it was on TV---still one of my all time favorite movies! Then there were the fall trips to Risen, Arkansas for our fathers' annual deer hunting trips---we would get noisy in the back seat and Aunt Lottie had us "play dead" to see who could go the longest without making a noise! I learned later, after I no longer made the trips, that Mary's experience in Risen became tainted by something unspeakable but I do still have happy memories of that time with her. I was so happy to visit with her in the spring of 2019 and meet Izzy and Ryker in person. I had planned a return visit with her in spring of 2020 but then Covid happened and now Covid has taken her from this earth but I am confident I will see her again in heaven! Rest in peace, sweet Mary---I'll see you on the other side!*

Victoria Roundtree - January 31, 2021 at 10:57 PM

JV

“ 1 file added to the album Mary



Jeffrey Volkerding - January 31, 2021 at 07:07 AM

JV

“ 1 file added to the album Mary



Jeffrey Volkerding - January 31, 2021 at 07:03 AM

JV

“ 1 file added to the album Mary



Jeffrey Volkerding - January 31, 2021 at 06:58 AM

JV

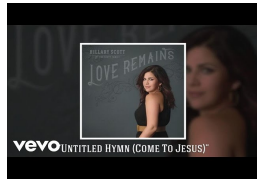
“ 1 file added to the album Mary



Jeffrey Volkerding - January 31, 2021 at 06:57 AM

JV

“ 1 file added to the album Mary



Jeffrey Volkerding - January 31, 2021 at 06:55 AM

JV

“ Jeffrey Volkerding lit a candle in memory of Mary Kathryn Volkerding Porter



Jeffrey Volkerding - January 31, 2021 at 06:04 AM

SO

“ Mary,

What a blessing you were. I am so glad we got to become friends. God Bless and keep you.



Susie O'Connell - January 30, 2021 at 01:58 PM

JF

“ *May God cherish your beautiful soul, dear Mary, forever.*

Jan Finch - January 30, 2021 at 08:22 AM

KK

“ *Kathy Kraemer lit a candle in memory of Mary Kathryn Volkerding Porter*



Kathy Kraemer - January 30, 2021 at 07:34 AM

KK

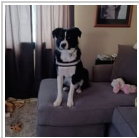
A very long time ago, I shared a house with Mary. She taught me it's okay to fight for what you love, to stand up, to be loud, to need to be needed. In her passing she continued to let God use her to teach me another lesson: that holding back, that delaying visits, that thinking there will always be time for it later...is a mistake. See the person now, write the letter now, don't deny people or yourself, there may NOT be time.

Kathy Kraemer - January 30, 2021 at 07:39 AM

JV

Beautiful sentiments and a loving tribute.

Jeffrey Volkerding - January 31, 2021 at 06:00 AM



“ *PJ Keller lit a candle in memory of Mary Kathryn Volkerding Porter*



PJ Keller - January 30, 2021 at 12:03 AM