



**Mary Lou Barbose
1931-2015**



Mary Lou and Marla

Dear Friend,

It is with a sad heart that I report that Mary Lou Barbose has departed our worldly presence. Mary Lou took care of CU's receipts and thank-you notes for 13 years until her husband, John Barbose, passed in 2006. In recognition of her long service, in 2007 she was CU Maurice River's Presidential Award Winner.

Just a few weeks before losing her husband John, her beloved dog, Ginger, died. She told me that she really missed having a dog, but she did not want to get another because the thought of training a puppy was daunting. After losing John so many responsibilities weighed on her. So I contacted hunter and dog trainer Robert Von Suskil and made arrangements for her to get a wonderful retired Golden Retriever. Robert's long experience as a dog trainer was just the ticket in finding her a well-behaved final furry pal, Marla.

Mary Lou referred to her pets as her "kids." At her funeral I came to realize that she had had many different dogs over the years, including a pair of standard Poodles, and no one knew how to spoil a dog rotten like Mary Lou. When friends lost their pets she would send them a poem about being reunited with their furry friend in the hereafter. Her nieces read the poem to those attending her services.

It's odd how we discover things about folks at their funerals that we never knew about them when they walked by our side. First, I found out her contemporaries and family called her "Weezy," whereas her CU friends always called her "Mary Lou". Also the fact that she served in the Army never came up in our many conversations. On the other hand, a number of members of her family were unaware that she was our recording secretary for 13 years and wrote hundreds of thank-you notes and receipts each year; however, they were not surprised.

Things I recall about Mary Lou: I remember that every time we checked on the Osprey platform across from her house she came down to the bulkhead like so many of our stewards and inquired, "Well?" And we would relay our findings on the nesting pair across from her home. When I think of Mary Lou I think about her fellow CU member Joanne Murphine and the morning duo they presented at Bay Day. As CU Ambassadors greeting festival attendees they are still unmatched; each had a devilish twinkle in her eye and they recruited many a new participant. Lastly Mary Lou would have to be remembered for her love of reading. As a literature teacher this likely came naturally to her, but her addiction was clearly the "Who-done-it" novels. She even kept a catalog of what she had devoured in the last week. Each book was rated and ranked so she would not re-read it and would avoid recommending anything but a winner.

So whether she was Mary Lou or Weezy, you could always count on her for honest and well-thought-out, frank advice. Her dedication to any activity that she devoted herself to was genuine. Her compassion for her pets was motherly and kind. Mary Lou will be missed.

Sincerely,

Jane Morton Galetto

Board President

Mary Louise Barbose (nee Ogden), 84, of Millville and formerly of Port Elizabeth, died Saturday afternoon May 9, 2015 shortly after arriving at Inspira Medical Center in Vineland.

The daughter of the late Chester M and Florence Woodruff Ogden, she was born April 20, 1931 in Bridgeton. She was the widow of the late John Barbose, who predeceased her in 2006.

She was a graduate of Bridgeton High School in 1949 and Beaver College (now Arcadia). Mrs. Barbose also earned a Master's Degree at Glassboro State (Rowan University).

For many years, she was employed at Delsea Regional High School in Franklinville, first, as an English Teacher and then in the guidance department and as an assistant to the district superintendent.

She served in the US Army in the Women's Army Corps, after completing officer training. She was discharged in 1957 as a Second Lieutenant.

Mrs. Barbose was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Bridgeton. She is survived by two sisters, Elisabeth "Ibby" Champion of Hopewell Twp. and Patricia "Trish" de Wilde of Quinton Twp.; two brothers, Albert Ogden of Ocean City and Florida and Chester Ogden of Egg Harbor Twp.; and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by a sister, Julia Tilton.

Private funeral services were held at the convenience of the family at Freitag Funeral Home in Bridgeton and burial at Fernwood Memorial Park in Hopewell Twp. followed.

Memorial contributions are requested in Mrs. Barbose's memory to the Cumberland County SPCA, 1244 N. Delsea Dr., Vineland, NJ 08360 or to First Presbyterian Church, 119 W. Commerce St., Bridgeton, NJ 08302.

Written condolences to the family may be shared at www.freitagfuneralhome.com.

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