



Mary Jo Legrand

October 16, 1928 - October 4, 2024

Mary Jo LeGrand (née Morris) was born in Omaha, Nebraska, on October 16, 1928. She was the second of twins, her sister being Mary Lu, born to parents Consuelo and Byrel Morris. Mary Jo grew up in Elk City, Nebraska, attending grade school in Elk City and high school in Valley. From a young age, the twins displayed musical talent and frequently sang at school, church events, weddings, and funerals.

After high school, Jo, as she preferred to be called, moved to Omaha, where she lived with her Uncle Earl while working as an Elevator Operator at Brandeis. She also enjoyed many activities with her friends, including playing softball. At a softball game, she caught the eye of a young man named Frank LeGrand. He famously told a friend, 'I am going to marry that girl on first base'. Not long after, Jo and Frank began dating, and just three months later, they married.

Initially, Frank and Jo lived above and managed a grocery store in Elk City. It was a challenging endeavor, involving tasks such as being the butcher and managing other essential operations—a true embodiment of "farm to table". They later moved to a small farm near Elkhorn, which they referred to in later years as "the Elkhorn Place". Finally, they settled into a cozy house in Waterloo, Nebraska, where they spent over sixty years of their lives. Jo would live there until the age of 92.

Jo dedicated herself to her family, becoming a stay-at-home mom to her four children, but also continued to share her musical talent by singing at weddings and funerals. She helped run a paint store from their home for a time, eventually transforming it into a craft store. There, she sold various handmade items, many of which she created herself. Jo was a gifted artist known for her beautiful paintings, knitting, crocheting, and needlepoint work. Her creations were shared generously—many reading this likely have received one of her cherished handmade gifts. Once their children were grown and Frank retired, Jo re-entered the workforce. Together, they worked seasonally at Rob Seed Company, and Jo spent several years employed at Thomas Fitzgerald Nursing Home.

Few people knew that Jo also had a poetic side. She sometimes wrote small poems in cards for loved ones and frequently kept journals filled with sweet reflections on her friends and family. Additionally, thanks to her tenacity and thoughtful communication, she had a talent for writing to companies about defective products, often receiving replacements, such as balls of yarn.

Jo's faith was central to her life. She was active in the Waterloo Methodist Church and deeply involved with a group called Bag Ladies, where members made items for abused women. Within this community, she formed lifelong friendships. Jo welcomed everyone into her heart—there were no strangers in her world. While her four children and their spouses were lucky to call her "Mom," many others became her "adopted" children, all of whom she loved dearly.

After recovering from COVID-19, Jo moved to Elk Ridge Independent Living in Elkhorn in 2021. There, she made wonderful friends, including her closest companion, Judy. Despite her declining health, Jo remained active—she cherished time spent with family and enjoyed cheering for her grandchildren

and great grandchildren at their sporting events. Everyone knew “Grandma Jo” and her distinctive "WOOP WOOP WOOP" that resonated across even the largest and most crowded gyms.

On October 4, Jo peacefully passed away in her sleep at Maple Crest Retirement Home. She was 95, just shy of her 96th birthday. She was ready to be reunited with her Lord. Despite her many talents, Jo was humble and never truly saw herself the way others did—as a remarkable and generous soul. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Jo is survived by her four children and their spouses: David and Susan LeGrand, Bob and Diana LeGrand, Jon and Amy LeGrand, and Cathy and Joel McDermott; her sisters-in-law Margie Wesley and Patty LeGrand; her cousin Don Morris and his wife Sandi Morris; 12 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband Frank, her parents Consuelo and Byrel Morris, and her twin sister Mary Lu (Elmer) Wesemann.

In Lieu of Flowers, memorials are suggested to the Waterloo Methodist Church.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **9**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Reichmuth Funeral Home - Omaha / Elkhorn
21901 W. Maple Rd.
P.O. Box 711
Elkhorn, NE 68022
402-289-2222
services@reichmuthfuneralhomes.com
<https://www.reichmuthfuneralhomes.com/>

Funeral Service

OCT **10**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Reichmuth Funeral Home - Omaha / Elkhorn
21901 W. Maple Rd.
P.O. Box 711
Elkhorn, NE 68022
402-289-2222
services@reichmuthfuneralhomes.com
<https://www.reichmuthfuneralhomes.com/>

A lunch reception will immediately follow the funeral service at Reichmuth Funeral Home

Tribute Wall



“ *Reichmuth Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Mary Jo Legrand*



Reichmuth Funeral Home - October 09, 2024 at 05:57 PM

TF

“ *The Bunnell Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mary Jo Legrand.*



The Bunnell Family - October 09, 2024 at 02:50 PM

SF

“ *Siciunas, Braun and Floro Families purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mary Jo Legrand.*



Siciunas, Braun and Floro Families - October 09, 2024 at 10:22 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Jo Legrand.*



October 08, 2024 at 08:27 PM



“ *The Wojtas Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Jo Legrand.*

The Wojtas Family - October 08, 2024 at 08:27 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mary Jo Legrand.*



October 08, 2024 at 03:02 PM



“ *Tonto & Beverly Shepherd & David Toward purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Mary Jo Legrand.*



Tonto & Beverly Shepherd & David Toward - October 08, 2024 at 10:22 AM

SM

“ Deepest condolences to Bob and Diana and the whole family. Jo was my cherished dance buddy for those wonderful times when we would go watch Bob and my dad's band play. Our favorite song was CCR's "Born on the Bayou." Jo and I would hear it start and give each other a big smile, and we would get up and groove our way out to the dance floor. She was totally smooth and totally cool, an absolute classic lady with style and grace. I miss you, Jo, but I know you are cutting a rug on that heavenly dance floor above! I am holding everyone close to my heart in this sad time. Hugs!

Susan Martens - October 07, 2024 at 07:14 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Jo Legrand.



October 07, 2024 at 01:03 PM

BA

“ Jo was a very kind and loving lady. She and Frank mentored my son as he worked with Frank. Jo was a wonderful cook and shared her crafting skills with others. Prior to Covid, she enjoyed attending a monthly card group with me. I have fond memories of she and Frank.

Betty Arnold - October 07, 2024 at 08:47 AM

MM

“ Mike and Deb McDermott purchased the *Your Light Shines* for the family of Mary Jo Legrand.



Mike and Deb McDermott - October 06, 2024 at 07:05 PM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Mary Jo Legrand.



October 06, 2024 at 04:24 PM

KK

“ Karen K. purchased the *Serene Retreat* for the family of Mary Jo Legrand.



Karen K. - October 05, 2024 at 03:00 PM