



Mary Jo French

August 8, 1961 - June 4, 2011

[View Video Tribute](#)

Mary Jo French, age 49, of Oppelo, passed away Saturday, June 4, 2011. She was born August 8, 1961 in Morrilton, Arkansas. She was a counselor at Morrilton Intermediate School and attended Morrilton First Assembly of God. Mary Jo received her Bachelor's degree in 1984 and her Master's Degree in

1990 from UCA. She was a breast cancer survivor and participated in marathons, triathlons, and bike races. She was a wonderful and loving daughter, granddaughter, sister, aunt, and friend to everyone who knew her. Her sweet face and beautiful smile will be missed.

Survivors include her parents, Billy Joe French and Louise Seay French of Oppelo; brother, Jeffrey French and wife Amy of Oppelo; sister, Regina Tilley and husband Mark of Morrilton; grandfather, Joseph French of Deberrie; three nieces, Lindsey and Katie French and Kaylyn Tilley; and two nephews, Cole Tilley and Ian French. She was preceded in death by her grandparents Katie French and Alice Seay and George Seay.

Funeral Services 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, June 8, at Morrilton First Assembly of God with Rev. Joe Alzate and Rev. Euna Mae Gibby officiating. Burial will be at Wolfe Cemetery. Family will receive friends 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to Soaring Wings Ranch, P.O. Box 1670, Conway, AR 72033, American Cancer Society, 901 N. University Ave., Little Rock, AR 72207, or Morrilton First Assembly of God, 1102 W. Clifton, Morrilton, AR 72110. Arrangements are by Harris Funeral Home in Morrilton.

Tribute Wall



“ *Mary Jo French*

January 30, 2023 at 03:08 AM



“ *Mary Jo and I go way back to childhood I was so shocked to hear the sad news yesterday. My condolences go out to all of you and please put your sorrow in God's hands. Remember she was doing something that was very dear to her and God just needed another Angel and he chose her. You will meet again.*

Debbie (Jones) Peoples - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM



“ *I did not know Mary Jo, but as a fellow bicyclist, it's a very sad day to hear of such a tragic accident. God bless her family during this very difficult time.*

Tracy Garstka - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM



“ *I have had the privilage of knowing Mary Jo since we were in Jr. High. She was always a gentle and caring person, and it made perfect sense that she became a counselor. I was also blessed to know her on the professional level and be witness to the love that she showered on every child with which she came in contact. MIS will never be able to replace her. Prayers to her family and friends.*

Nina Magie - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

MC

“ To the Frenches and Tilleys - I love you, sweet Friends and am lifting you up in prayer. Deepest condolences on the loss of our beautiful Mary Jo.

Michelle Chism - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

WM

“ We are so very sorry for your loss. Ms. French was a great person, very caring and giving. We extend our deepest sympathy to you her family. You are all in our prayers. God Bless Wesley and Kim Martin paron, Arkansas

Wesley and Kim Martin - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

DH

“ Regina, I'm sorry to hear about Ms French. May God touch each and everyone of the family. She will be missed by many.

Debra Harris - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

WM

“ In our prayers in your time of loss.

Wesley and Kim Martin - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

AK

“ Miss your smile already, but will cherish the times we shared im school. Rest in our Saviors Arms!

Alaina C. Mitchell Kassaw - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

RM

“ Maru Jo will be sadly missed. She was a wonderful person.

Richard and Jane Mahurin - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

SB

“ Mary Jo was a wonderful school counselor. She worked with us in elementary and then taught us as teenagers to give back and work with the elementary students in a program called "Teens as Teachers". She was one of a kind. Praying for the family. I know she will be deeply missed.

Shelly Boyd - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

MZ

“ Ms. French was my counselor at Paron. She was such a wonderful mentor and friend. She always had a smile on her face. I loved and enjoyed keeping up with her bike races and beautiful pictures thru facebook. She will be greatly missed. Praying for her dear family and friends.

Melissa Lancaster Zuber - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

KW

“ Although we didn't know Mary Jo personally, we knew her from numerous triathlons and always cheered for her. She was such an inspiration. She had a huge smile each and every time she crossed the finish line. Multisports has lost a true angel. Thoughts and prayers to her friends and family.

Kelley Wilkins - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

SD

“ Mary Jo was a wonderful person. I remember her sweet smile most of all. She will be one of God's most treasured angels.

Stacey Dollar - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

LM

“ Such a sweet soul! My mom, Judy Calhoun, was her mentor and friend. She misses her so much! Mary Jo road the bus with me and my sister, Lynn, and watched out for us when we were little and started riding the bus. Lately, she told me that she would be taking care of my oldest son, Evan, as he will be attending MIS in the fall. Now she will be watching out for him from heaven. Such a loss for our town and MIS. May God bless you with the peace only given by God.

Leeann Calhoun Mobley - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

SB

“ I became acquainted with Mary Jo this past school year. I realized fast what an inspiration she was to everyone around her. She had both a warm, genuine smile and a positive attitude. She worked well with her colleagues as well as the students. Her family will continue to be in my prayers.

Sammi Bruich - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

SN

“ My prayers are with you. Mary Jo was a sweet, wonderful person who had a happy smile that just brightened the day for all who saw it.
We love you. Shelia and Henry Noland

Shelia Noland - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

AS

“ Mary Jo was truly an inspiration and role model for all. She was the most optimistic person I have ever known. My thoughts and prayers are with friends and family.

Anna Sanders - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

MW

“ So sorry to hear this news...my thoughts and prayers are with you all. She was a great person and will be greatly missed. May God hold you all in his hands.

Marilyn (Gullett) Winberry - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

HT

“ I was on the bike ride Saturday. I am so very sorry for your loss. You are in my prayers.

Heather Taylor - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

RB

“ Our deepest heart felt sympathy & prayer goes out to this young lady's family. It gives us comfort knowing she knew the Lord & now her spirit is with God.

The joy now she is experiencing in heaven does not even compare to bike riding.

May God Bless & comfort each of her family & friends that loved her.

Ricahrd & Vickie Bucklew - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

CC

“ We never met Mary Jo but we were in the ride on Saturday and heard about the accident, we were so sorry to hear the news. You have been in our thoughts and prayers and will continue to be.
sincerely Christy and Finley Cranor

Christy Cranor - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

CC

“ I met Mary Jo French because she participated in bicycle events that my husband and I chair for Russellville. The events that Mary Jo came to were the Toru De Valley and Tour De Pumpkin. Mary Jo came to these rides and always brought enthusiasm and a zest for life. Eventhough I did not know her personally she was a person who I knew we would see year after year and I looked forward to her sharing the stories of other tours she rode that year. It is so sad to hear about this accident and her untimely death. My husband and I give condolences and have her family and friends in our thoughts.

Cass Capen-Housley - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

CF

“ I finished in many races recently near her and passed her on the bike ride Saturday. When I passed,I said hello, she always had a great smile and enjoyed running and biking so much. It is a great loss to the running and biking community and she will be missed!

Coreen Frasier - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

LW

“ Mary Jo and I were both counselors at Atkins Public Schools. We got to know one another very well and always tried to attend the same workshops. She even took in our cat, Tiger, when my husband had a heart attack, and we were scared he'd get run over on the highway. I've always had a love for Mary Jo over the years; she was so kind and compassionate, and never forgot a single one of her students. Our condolences go out to her family whom she loved with every word out of her mouth.

Bob and Lou Wenger

Lou Wenger - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

KG

“ I didn't know this lady but did know of her and her care for others through participating in causes like charity events. People like her help so many others. My prayers are with the family and friends for whom I sorrow but my envy is for her who is with our Lord and Savior!

Kenny Gober - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

JA

“ When Mary Jo left Paron School she was dearly missed. We missed her beautiful smile and friendly attitude. She was a dear friend and teacher. We are the ones who served her lunch at Paron School and we loved her.

Judy Drennan & Yvonne Ault - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

AI

“ Our prayers are with you at this time.

Arthur and Bonnie Isely - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

BD

“ To the family: I was so saddened to hear of Mary Jo's passing. My prayers are with you during this difficult time. Mary Jo was an awesome person and always was so friendly, as all of you are. My heart goes out to you all.

Brenda Short Duvall - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

LW

“ So sorry and saddened by your loss.

L Van Warren - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

JM

“ I met Mary for the first time this last year as we both completed in the Arkansas RRCA Grand Prix. Since we both completed each of the 20 races last year and received Iron Man/Women awards, I was able to see her quite often. It was always to pleasure to talk with her as she was always upbeat and looking forward to the next race. She accomplished so much and I am very proud to have known her, even if for just a short time. I know I speak for all the Iron Men and Women when I say that we will miss her. May God Bless & comfort each of her family & friends during this difficult time.

Joe Milligan - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

BW

“ Praying that God will hold you in HIS loving arms, give to you and be to you all that you need during this time of sorry...

Beverly Wallace - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

LF

“ I hate to say that I actually was never introuced to Mary Jo and hate that I did not introduce myself. In the future I will. I did see her at many races and always admired her strenght and endurance in running races. My husand was a fellow Iron Man with her. I pray that the Lord will comfort all those who loved her and based on the pictures that is a lot. My prayers are with the family.
Linda Fason, Little Rock

Linda Fason - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

DC

“ I sat by this lady and her mother at the cancer survivor dinner a year ago. I was there with my sister Lisa who is an ovarian cancer survivor.. Mary Jo was very sweet and kind. She radiated the love of Jesus.. you could tell she was a Christian the moment you met her. May the Lord hold her near this day. My prayers go out to her Mother who was such a sweet person and to her family as well.

donna carley - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

PR

“ So very sorry for your loss. Mary Jo was a truly kind and gentle lady. I worked with her for over 6 years and found her to always be a cheerful and loving person. She was a very good counselor to both my sons who graduated from Paron. I was so happy and proud of her accomplishments in her bike riding, running, swimming. She was truly amazing. Your family is in my prayers. Sincerely, Phyllis Rickard

Phyllis Rickard - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

DW

“ My family and I are so very sorry for your loss! Her thoughtful, caring heart and her beautiful smile will be missed more than words could ever express. May God comfort and bless you through this sad time.

Dana Waters - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

KL

“ Mary Jo was a wonderful person, My sympathy goes out to you and your family at this difficult time. Kelly Gunderman Lentz

Kelly Gunderman Lentz - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

WM

“ We are praying for you all. I want to thank the Lord for all the precious memories I have with this family. I appreciate all of the great times I had with Mary Jo when we were teens. Those memories will live on forever

Wanda (Mahurin) Morris - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

JS

“ We are so very sorry for your loss. May God comfort you in your time of sorrow. John and Alice Spires

John and Alice Spires - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

LB

“ Such a nice, sweet person. So sad to hear of this tragic loss. May your family find peace and comfort during this sad time. God has received a precious angel. God Bless.

Laura Burris - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

BF

“ Working with Ms. French for 5 years gives me many wonderful memories to cherish. She has touched so many lives with her contagious smile, adventurous spirit and understanding heart. She loved her God and each of you beyond measure.

Brenda Feldman - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

DH

“ DEAR JEFF IAM SO SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT THE DEATH OF YOUR SISTER FROM WHAT I UNDERSTAND SHE WAS AREAL SWEET PERSON THE WAY SHE PASSED WAS SHOCK TO HEAR TELL YOUR FAMILY MY CONDOLENCES AND IF YOU AND AMY NEED ANYTHING JUST LET ME KNOW MY THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE YOU I LOVE BOTH YOUR COUSIN DONNA.

DONNA GAIL HEINZERLING - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

JG

“ *She will be missed*

John gocke - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

RH

“ *Seems like yesterday we were working at ALCO. You have always been an amazing person to me. Your beautiful smile will be missed forever. God has a new angel. I will be praying for comfort and mercy for your family. Good bye my friend til we see each other again in heaven.*

Regina Hoelzeman - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

DG

“ *I am praying for the entire French family. I am so very sorry & pray for the Lord to heal your broken hearts. Mary Jo was loved by everyone children & adults. She was so full of love. I remember when Cole & my son Caleb were bowling & she would bring Cole to games & practices. We spent a lot of time talking & Mary Jo was always a sweet & precious person & a joy to visit with. Mary Jo will be missed. I know she is happy in Heaven spending time with those who have gone before us but there will be a void here. It is just another reason to look forward to Heaven to see Mary Jo again.*

Deborah Gibby - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

JM

“ I will always remember Mary Jo's bright smile and loving spirit from my days spent at Opeelo Assembly of God with her. Prayers and thoughts are with the family.

Jennifer (Duvall) McCullah - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

KD

“ Just want you all to know we are praying for you all. I know I haven't seen Mary Jo in years but I remember her staying at our house alot when I was a kid. Her and Wanda were good friends. Its sad that time separates us and then something like this has to happen. I'll never forget the time she was carried home from church one Saturday night speaking in tongues, only to be carried back to church the next morning still under the influence of the Holy Ghost. Mary Jo was precious to our family. Alot of great memories. Kelli (Mahurin) Duvall

Kelli (Mahurin) Duvall - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

TK

“ Billy, Louise, Jeff and Regina, we are all so sad to hear of Mary Jo's passing. Please know that although we cannot be there you are in our thoughts and prayers. I speak for all of the McCurry's and Mansfields. Mary Jo I believe is now riding on the greenest hills and beautifully paved roads. She is laughing with Aunt Katie, Grandma French, Aunt Josie and Uncle Albert, Charlie and Miss Alice. I am sure many more are happy to see her and welcome her into open arms.

Love Terri Mansfield, Opal McCurry, and all of our extended family

Terri Mansfield Kenner - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

GS

“ *Mary You will be greatly missed, love you cuz*

Greg N Seay - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

GS

“ *Mary you are one of the most Faithful Christians on earth and now heaven. Give Daddy and Grannie a hug for me. Love You - Greg.*

Greg N Seay - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

BH

“ *Mary, you are a beautiful person inside and out. I was honored and blessed to have known you. Thank you for always being there for me. Our loss is heavens gain. Until we see each other again, bye my dearest friend.*

Brenda hingle - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

BH

“ *Mary Jo is a beautiful person inside and out. I had the honor to call her a friend. She was always there for me with a nice word and a friendly smile. I enjoyed all her posts and loved tracking her accomplishments with running and biking. Our loss is heavens gain.... May God bring the family comfort in this time of sorrow.*

Brenda Hingle - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

CG

“ *I am so sorry to hear about Mary Jo. I went to school with her from Reynolds thur high school. She was a very sweet person and always had a smile.*

Cynthia (Trotter) Grady - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

MC

“ Mary Jo will always be an inspiration to everyone that came in contact with her. She was part of a very special and loving family. We are honored that our paths have crossed. Our deepest sympathy. Mary Alice and Bob Cook

Mary Alice and Bob Cook - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

DR

“ Mary Jo was a dear friend, and she will be truly missed. She touched so many lives with her kind words and that wonderful smile. She just made the day brighter when she entered a room. I could call when I was upset, happy, or just needed someone to talk to. When I was through talking to her I always felt better. I know she is with the Lord, and that makes it easier to comes to terms with.

debbie rudder - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

KK

“ Regina and family, I was so sorry to hear of your loss. I have many sweet memories of summer fun and friendship. You have been and will continue to be in my prayers. Love, Katy

Katy Masters Kellar - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

RD

“ May God continue to bless and comfort you during the hard days ahead. Mary Jo was such a blessing to so many people. It was overwhelming to see so many people at the service today. We love you all.

Randall and Kathy Dias

Randall Dias - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

RC

“ I'm so thankful for the time I had recently with Mary Jo when she stayed the night in my home. We sat around the dinner table talking, laughing, and reminiscing about old times. She spoke about her nieces and nephews with such pride and joy! She shared with me her love for running, biking, and traveling. Before she went to bed I gave her a big hug. The next morning when I woke up she was already up and gone because she was running the Bentonville Half Marathon that day (April 2nd). I'm so glad I had that evening with her and I will cherish it forever.

Roxanne Clement - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

DJ

“ I am so sorry.I will be thinking of you. Love you Louise.

D.L.Johnson

DAIL L Johnson - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

DH

“ SO SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS! I HAD THE PLEASURE OF WORKING WITH MARY JO IN THE MORRILTON SCHOOL SYSTEM.SHE WAS ALWAYS VERY HELPFUL,AND SUCH A LOVELY AND CARING PERSON.MY THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH ALL OF YOU. MAY GOD GIVE YOU PEACE AND STRENGTH.

DONNA HALLER
CONWAY ARKANSAS

DONNA HALLER - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM

SH

“ *My dear cousin Louise I am so sorry to hear about Mary Jo. When I received the news I was so shocked and saddened. I can't even imagine the pain you are going through. I love you and sent my love and prayers to your family also. Sharon Hood-Cousin*

Sharon Johnson Hood - June 30, 2018 at 01:41 AM