

MARY JO HEATHERINGTON

September 4, 1948-January 28, 2025



Mary Jo (Kozbelt) Heatherington, 76, died at her home in Salvador, Brazil, after a courageous battle with cancer with her devoted husband at her side. She was preceded in death by her parents, Catherine and Matthew Kozbelt of Pittsburgh. She is survived by her husband, Bartolomeu Diaz da Cruz; her son, Benjamin Heatherington (Patrice); her sister, Catherine Kozbelt Chiminello (Philip);

and her best friend, Micki McDonough.

Mary Jo was born and raised in Pittsburgh, graduated from Bishop Boyle H.S., University of Pittsburgh and earned a Doctorate in Education from the State University of New York. She travelled extensively in her personal life and professional career, working as the Director of American Schools in Brazil, Bolivia, and Mozambique.

Mary Jo was a beloved wife, mother and sister, and her family meant everything to her. She dedicated her life to educating children throughout the world. She was a strong, intelligent, independent person with a passion for life and learning. Mary Jo was also an avid reader who had a love for books, nature and animals. She will be remembered for her kind, compassionate and generous spirit by all those that she encountered, especially those less fortunate and in need. Mary Jo was a Renaissance woman of many talents and great knowledge. She will be forever honored, loved and deeply missed.

Burial services were private at Mary Jo's request. A celebration of her life will be held in her hometown in Conde Bahia, Brazil.

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