



## Mary Jo Smock Sheward

August 8, 1935 - November 2, 2018

Mary Jo Smock Sheward, 83, of Frankton, passed away on November 2, 2018 at her daughter's residence. She was born on August 8, 1935 in Elwood, and resided most of her life in Frankton.

Mary Jo graduated with a Bachelor's and Master's Degree from Purdue University, and retired from teaching after 42 years of service.

She was a member of Elwood East Main Street Christian Church, Swayzee (Elwood) Chapter #345 Order of the Eastern Star, Madison County 4-H Association, Alexandria Eagles Lodge, and the Elwood Elks Lodge. She enjoyed teaching science, sewing, coaching, 4-H judging, watching football and basketball, especially Purdue and the Colts, shopping, taking care of her animals and 4-H mentoring. She also loved to spend time with her family and grandchildren.

Mary Jo is survived by her children, Michael (Patricia) Sheward, Jana (Brian) Heritier; grandchildren, Eric Heritier, Luke Sheward, Emma Sheward; brother-in-law, Chick Sheward; great-aunt, Doneta Williams; special caretaker friend, Missy Tanner; several nieces; nephews; and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Marvin Sheward; mother, Madonna Smock Saffer; father, Dallas Smock; brother and sister-in-law,

Charles and Jane Smock.

Visitation will be held Thursday, November 8, 2018, 11:00 am - 8:00 pm at Loose Funeral Homes & Crematory, 200 West 53rd St. Anderson.

Services will be at 11:30 am, Friday, November 9, 2018, at the funeral home, with Gary Simmons officiating.

Burial will take place in Sunset Memorial Park, Elwood.

Following the procession, there will be a celebration of her life at the Alexandria Eagles where we are encouraging all friends and family to share your favorite stories.

Memorial contributions may be made to Madison County 4-H Association; 3424 Mounds Road; Anderson, IN 46017.

[www.loosecares.com](http://www.loosecares.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Sunset Memorial Park

Elwood, IN 46036

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 8. 11:00 AM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Loose Funeral Homes & Crematory  
200 W 53rd St  
Anderson, IN 46013  
(765) 649-5255  
info@loosecares.com

## Service

NOV 9. 11:30 AM (ET)

Loose Funeral Homes & Crematory  
200 W 53rd St  
Anderson, IN 46013  
(765) 649-5255  
info@loosecares.com

# Tribute Wall

LB

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the family. Mrs. Sheward was my neighbor as I grew up. She taught me to sew and helped me with 4-h judging etc. I have several fond memories of her. She was a great women.*

---

**Luanne Benton/Conner** - November 09, 2018 at 07:58 AM

JW

“ *Prayers to the family! Mrs. Sheward was a great teacher and loved having her as a track coach in middle school*

---

**Jennifer Williams** - November 07, 2018 at 05:25 PM

“ In 2002, I contributed “A Pair of Gloves” to a collection of teacher stories titled “From Dubs to Marbles”. After it was published, I sent Mrs. Sheward a copy of the book. She responded with a warm thank you note. Mrs. Sheward passed on this past week and so I fondly remember her.

*Nestled in tissue paper, a pair of white gloves with pearl button clasps lay in the box. “These are to remind you of who you will be,” said Mary Jo Sheward, the giver of the gift to celebrate my eighth grade graduation. The middle school science teacher continued, “Always remember to be a charming, gracious, stylish lady. Live up to your potential and change the world.” I was delighted with the gloves and her sentiments.*

*I had never actually been an assigned student in her class, but Mrs. Sheward took an interest in me from our first meeting when I was in seventh grade. I think Mrs. Sheward was attracted by the challenge of shaping my potential. She never failed to chat with me in the hall or offer a shoulder for me to cry on. I was a gangly, klutzy tomboy that had charmed my way into being elected student council president. I was at the top of my class academically and often bored. Mrs. Sheward found ways to challenge me and gave me special projects to expand my horizons. In my insecurity, I could be loud, arrogant, and precocious. But Mrs. Sheward saw through all of that to the woman I would become.*

*Many times over the years, I thought of the gloves and Mrs. Sheward’s belief in me. As I struggled to gain my confidence as a teacher, I vowed to mimic her way of making students feel special by listening and giving value to their thoughts. Building positive relationships with students became the cornerstone of my practice. Countless times when my job would seem overwhelming and I was ready to quit, I would recall her words and be reminded of many teachers who weathered the same type of storms to influence me. Often as I needed patience or strength with my students, I would imagine putting on the white gloves and living up to Mrs. Sheward’s expectations. I looked for my students’ potential and helped them to recognize it.*

*Recently, I was busy assisting at a wedding when Mrs. Sheward unexpectedly arrived as a guest. When I could talk with her at the reception, she remembered exactly who I was. She was thrilled to know that I was now a school administrator and had just started creating a program to encourage high school students to become teachers. She had always recognized that I had a “special spark” and began to energize me for my new role. We parted with the plan that she would come to my classroom and model the role of a great teacher.*

*Thank you Mary Jo Sheward for an elegant gift from a loving heart that continues to empower me to this day. Although the actual gloves long ago disintegrated from wear, their softness still caresses my life and the futures of my students.*

---

**ELIZABETH A OWENS** - November 07, 2018 at 10:37 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mary Jo Smock Sheward.*



---

November 07, 2018 at 10:04 AM



“ *Mrs. Sheward will be greatly missed during our visits home to Indiana. My former science teacher, 4H mentor, and cousin, Mary Jo created a lasting impact on my life. Her humor, intelligence and style will always be fondly remembered.*

---

**Deanne Olson** - November 07, 2018 at 08:57 AM

NI

“ *Such an awesome teacher. She was a spit fire that would not take anyone acting up.*

**Nichol** - November 07, 2018 at 07:47 AM

MS

“ *We send our deepest condolences, prayers for all of you , she never forgot my children and always had nice things to say about them, from Marty & Margo Schott. Rip*

**Margo Schott** - November 06, 2018 at 08:20 PM

BC

“ *Mrs. Sheward was a wonderful & fun teacher. I loved how she was so involved & helpfull in 4-H. Bless the family!*

**Betty Rinker Crum** - November 06, 2018 at 07:49 PM

JL

“ *Mrs. Sheward was one of my favorite teachers in Middle School and helped me learn so much in 4-H. She taught us basic skills that I use to this day. A wonderful teacher!*

**Joy Lynn Zarse Law** - November 06, 2018 at 06:23 PM



*Mrs Sheward was a Great teacher! Loved running into around town she always remembered me & always spoke. RIP*

**Marcia Douglas Pattishall** - November 09, 2018 at 11:52 PM

RW

“ *Mrs. Sheward had an immeasurable impact on my life . I cherish my times with her and Mr . Sheward. She was a great teacher and mentor for me during my Middle School years and later in 4H . What a grand lady !*

---

**Rita (McDermitt) Whitesell** - November 06, 2018 at 05:58 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mary Jo Smock Sheward.*



---

November 06, 2018 at 03:02 PM

KH

“ *Mrs. Sheward, you will be greatly missed. Always enjoy you to come for Christmas and Thanksgiving. Checking out my "bling"*  
*Love you, Kathy*

---

**Kathy and Dennis Heritier** - November 06, 2018 at 01:19 PM