



Mary Jane Weinbaum

May 15, 1934 - November 10, 2017

Mary Jane (May) Weinbaum, beloved wife, mother, sister, grandmother, great grandmother and dear friend, died on November 10, 2017 at the age of 83, surrounded by her loved ones, in Royal Oak, MI after a 16-year battle with Parkinson's. She and her husband Bob had celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 24th.

May was born in New York City of immigrant Irish parents. She married and divorced young, and having decided it would be better to be poor in paradise she relocated in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, with her three young children in tow. In October 1966, while doing the books at a small guest house, she caught the eye of a vacationing Washington, DC lawyer. Within 8 months and after only 21 days in each other's company during that period, the Catholic divorcee married the Jewish bachelor who was working at the U.S. Department of Justice at the time, and she and the kids joined him in Washington.

The nation's political climate in the late 60's and early 70's sparked in May a deep sense of justice. After moving to suburban Detroit, the last of her four children arrived and she became involved in the anti-war movement. May hosted actress-turned-activist Jane Fonda in her home for an anti-war fundraiser and was a delegate to the People's Peace Treaty Conference in Paris. Also of note was her protest at GM headquarters for GM's role in arms

production when by then Bob was an attorney (in that very same building) for the automaker. May marched in front of the building with her baby in her arms, and with Bob's blessing. The family moved to Detroit proper in 1973 where May focused on the local political issues of the day, and there were many.

May loved to cook and she was a great one. At bedtime, she often read her cook books before falling asleep. Be it her chicken soup, a poached salmon in aspic, meatloaf, spaghetti, or a cassoulet, it was wonderful. Her holiday turkeys were always moist on the inside and crispy on the outside. She was a fearless chef and enjoyed trying new recipes, making her own changes along the way. How often did Bob ask, "Honey, can you make this the same way again?" And the reply was always, "I'll try".

Life's next chapter was written by May and Bob's love for the tropics where they met. They fell for Key West on their first visit there and eventually became home owners for almost 40 years. Their tropical home away from home for six months of the year overflows with treasured memories for family and dear friends - the sultry warm breezes, the Cuban coffee, the chickens, the Conch houses, the different "pace", soon became part of one's DNA. In 2007 May and Bob simplified their lives in Michigan by selling their suburban home and moving into a downtown Royal Oak condominium to facilitate May's increased mobility challenges.

From an early age May possessed the indomitable spirit she carried throughout her life, in everything she did. Bob was her partner, her mate, in every sense of the word. As the going started to become difficult for May, Bob was at her side every step of the way. She also was blessed with extraordinary caregivers both in Florida (Melissa, Kristie, Fiona, Pauline, Margaret, Annette), and in Michigan (Cheri, Kimba, Valerie, Martha, Angela). For each of them, May's well-being always came first.

We will miss Mary, this extraordinary human spirit, in so many ways, among them: her voice, her zest for life, her laughter, her intellect, her passion, her character, her love of her family and friends, especially the joy she felt in the presence of her grandchildren and great grandchild, and her concern for justice in this world.

May was the beloved wife of Robert C. Weinbaum; loving mother of Jeanne (Michael) Sarnacki, Robert (Joy) Angelastro, Amy Anthony and John Weinbaum; grandmother to Elliot (Leslie), Franny (John), Jordan, Nicholas, Cortlyn and Ty; great grandmother to Rocco; dear sister to Anne Wettler, Ed Nugent, Sr., the late James Nugent, the late Henry Nugent and the late Hugh Nugent.

To those who wish to remember May with a charitable donation, please consider a contribution to the Michael J Fox Foundation or the charitable organization of your choice.

The Michael J. Fox Foundation
Donation Processing
P.O. Box 5014
Hagerstown, MD 21741-5014

A celebration of May's life will be held on Friday, December 8th, at the Red Run Golf Club at 2036 Rochester Road, Royal Oak, MI starting at noon, followed by lunch. Valet included.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

DEC 8. 12:00 PM (ET)

Red Run Golf Club
2036 Rochester Road
Royal Oak, MI 48073

Tribute Wall



“ *Tricia Weinbaum lit a candle in memory of Mary Jane Weinbaum*



Tricia Weinbaum - October 23, 2022 at 08:51 AM

MS

“ *When I was working on an undergraduate degree at the University of Detroit, one of my professors in the field of politics gave us an assignment on the topic of Communism. We students were expected to interview someone in the Detroit area who was sympathetic to the Party. When I said that I knew of no one whom I might interview on this topic, the professor suggested that I contact a May Weinbaum because I would find that her political ideas encompassed many different areas of politics. Lo and behold, I discovered that May and her family were neighbors of mine: we all lived in nearby Palmer Woods in Detroit. My being invited to the Weinbaum house began a friendship that, throughout many years, included discussions on just about everything in life! May was a delight all the time! She was candid, had a terrific sense of humor, and if she knew little or nothing about something, she searched for it's definition and impact on us all. May was truly one of a kind in every positive way. May never hesitated to be a loving and kind friend. Bob, I have so many great memories of you and May that even in this sad time I cannot help but smile! Although she will be missed by all who were lucky enough to be her friends, she will never be missed: women like May will always be near. . .*

Marilynn Sambrano
January 12, 2018

Marilynn Sambrano - January 12, 2018 at 09:14 PM

DC

“ *What a delight and privilege it was to know May. She was unfailingly kind and generous, but also playfully mischievous. There was never a dull moment in her company. And a beautiful soul shone through those happy, beautiful eyes. We will miss her.*

We can't join the celebration of her life on Friday, but our thoughts tomorrow will be with Bob, the family, and all who share the sense of loss we feel.

-- Dave and Cindy Collins

Dave Collins - December 07, 2017 at 02:21 PM

FD

“ *May was an unusually positive, engaging and thoughtful friend who could bring sunshine to the darkest moments and insight to challenging times. A beautiful Irish lass with the smile of her people forever on her face. Marge and I have warm memories of our times with her and dear Bob and their family. Rest in peace, dear May.*

Frank Dunne - December 07, 2017 at 11:04 AM

JM

“ *Gary and I were so very sorry to learn that Bob and the family have lost May. We will always remember her with great affection. She was so vibrant and cheerful that she almost sparkled. In particular, we recall the wonderful Antitrust Section meeting in Palm Beach, the party at Ragtops (and of course their classic outfits at that event), as well as having brunch with May and Bob at Mar-a-Lago and watching Donald Trump walk across the lawn in his tennis shorts with a "niece" on each arm. Just thinking of May brought smiles. Jan & Gary McDavid*

Janet McDavid - November 22, 2017 at 09:19 AM



Barry
Nigro

“ Bob,

Stacey and I are so sorry to hear this news. You and May were always so much fun and a great team. I still smile every time I think about the belly laugh we had late one night (really early one morning) discussing the pros and cons of the Banjo Minnow!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7QwteLR4fs>

ABA meetings haven't been the same since!

Stacey and I send you and your family our love!

Barry Nigro

Barry Nigro - November 21, 2017 at 09:49 PM



PP

“ Bob -

Lois and I just learned of May's passing. So sorry. May was special. Loved her passion for life, you, family and a good time with friends. Words are never correct at a time like this, but hope you receive some comfort in the knowledge that when we heard the news and immediately thought of May [and you] it brought a smile to our face thinking of the wonderful person that was May.

Phil Proger

Phillip Proger - November 21, 2017 at 06:06 PM

KC

“ Dear Bob and family:
It has been my pleasure to care and love May for who she was these past 4 years. She was beautiful, intelligent, driven yet gentle and kind to me as her caretaker. May was a TOUR DE FORCE in her passion for life and family! Bob was her hero 24/7 and the deep love between them was obvious. Her struggle these past couple years did not deter her from staying true to who she was. I am fortunate to know her lovely family and happier to have joined the ranks. Bob with all his love and sincerity for his May made the most of a beautiful life for her. I look forward to many years of being part of the Weinbaum Clan! Let us all relish in her beautiful essence and never forget to grab all of life we can on this wonderful earth with our loved ones as they did. All my love, Kim Ciolek

Kim Ciolek - November 21, 2017 at 11:11 AM

MT

“ A classy lady and a classy couple. So sorry to hear of this. Our thought and prayers are with Bob and the family.
Mike & Sue Taubitz

Mike Taubitz - November 18, 2017 at 07:39 PM

MA

“ 6 files added to the album New Album Name



margaret - November 18, 2017 at 07:04 PM

SR

I love these pictures. They are so May,

Sydney Reiter - November 19, 2017 at 08:55 PM

SC

Margaret -- great pictures, thanks for sharing.

Steven Cernak - November 21, 2017 at 10:42 AM

SC

“ *Our prayers are with Bob and the entire family. We have some great, fun, loud memories of May and she will be missed.*
Steve and Meg Cernak

Steve Cernak - November 18, 2017 at 04:43 PM