



## Jody Martin

January 9, 1949 - November 20, 2020

Jody Martin of Palm Harbor, FL joined with God on November 20, 2020 at the age of 71. Jody had fought an 8 month battle with cancer that began in March of 2020 and finally succumbed to the disease while at the Suncoast Hospice Care Center in Palm Harbor, FL. She was surrounded by her family and friends.

She was born Barbara Jo Abbott on Jan 9, 1949 at Deadwood, SD to Delores and Robert Abbott, both deceased. Jody attended Franklin Pierce High School in Tacoma, WA where she sang with a group called the Silvertones. Jody graduated in 1967 and then attended Eastern Washington University where she majored in music. In 1968 Jody was selected to be the Intercollegiate Knights Duchess for the year. Jody sang with the Collegians and also with the University Symphonic Choir. Jody's voice coach was Dr. Ralph Manzo an internationally acclaimed music conductor and instructor. She had a wonderful and lovely voice and would go on to sing songs from Olivia Newton John while performing with a small band for tips in Gig Harbor, WA. It was a very special time and Jody made some very close friends that have remained in touch throughout her life. Since her time at University she continued her love of music as a member the church choir, and as a director of several children's holiday plays for the church.

Jody moved to St. Petersburg, FL in 1975 with her husband Rob Townsend to raise their children. It was a blended family with Ben and Kim from her previous marriage to John Coffey, and Chad, Rob's son also from a previous marriage. In 1980 she began her career at GTE Companion Services helping to monitor the elderly in case of slips or falls in their homes. In 1986 Jody met her future husband Bill Martin and they married on April 8, 1989 in St Petersburg. Rob and his wife Cindy are now retired and live in the home they built at Lake Panasoffkee, FL. They and their families have been dearest friends throughout the years.

In 1991 Jody left Companion Services to open a child daycare center from her home. The children loved her, and she loved and cared for them as her own. There would be crafts and playtime, naps, and storytelling. Jody would celebrate their birthdays and the holidays, and especially Halloween when the children would come in their costumes. Jody gave up her beloved daycare at the end of 1995 due to Bills transfer to Tallahassee. All the memories of that time are filled with joy and happiness, and her enduring love for the

children.

After returning to the area and moving to Palm Harbor in June of 1996, Jody returned to ADT Companion Services as their customer service manager, she was now responsible for all services and systems nationwide. In 2005 Jody went into the medical billing field. She received her certification as a Medical Coder while working at Advanced Urology Associates in Clearwater, FL.

Jody retired in June of 2019 and after a surprise retirement party with her lifelong friends and family, Jody and Bill departed on a well-deserved vacation cruise to Alaska the next month.

Jody loved her family and friends and she will be missed dearly. She was the most gracious soul, her kindness and love were boundless and all who knew her loved her. She was true to her friends and always positive, never critical and would find the good in everyone. Jody loved the holiday season and each year every room in the home was decorated to the nines. She loved when family and friends would stop by to visit and all were amazed with her attention to detail. All of us loved to be with Jody at Christmastime and she will be missed by all who knew her.

Jody was always strong in her faith in God and it has helped her immensely in these last few months. She is now with God in heaven and she will be our angel watching over us. Jody's spirit will live on in her children, her grandchildren and their children for generations to come. May she rest in peace.

Jody leaves behind her husband Bill of 31 years, her two children and three grandchildren and her younger sister and brother. Her son Ben of Charleston, SC is engaged to Sonya James, also of Charleston, and they will be married on Jody's birthday on Jan 9th, 2021. Her daughter Kim is a teacher, is married to Ralph Henson and they reside in Clearwater, FL. Jody's grandchildren are Bryce Henson 22, who just recently relocated to Arlington, VA, Riley Jo Henson, 20, attends Flagler University in St Augustine who will soon be engaged to Harrison Hobbs and plans to be married soon, and Haley Henson, 15, who will be graduating from high school with honors and plans to attend college. Her sister Lynda Kincaid currently lives in Tacoma, WA with her husband Lou, and her brother Bobby Abbott resides with his wife Mary Ann in Warrenton, OR.

A Celebration of Jody's Life memorial service will be held at the Curlew Hills Memorial Gardens at 1750 Curlew Rd. Palm Harbor, FL 34683 on December 12, 2020 at 1 pm followed by her inurnment.

[Curlewhills.com](http://Curlewhills.com) / 800.944.3433

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Cancer Society in her name.

# Events

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**DEC** **Memorial Service** 01:00PM

**12**

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Curlew Hills Memory Gardens Funeral Home  
1750 Curlew Road, Palm Harbor, FL, US, 34683

# Comments

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**William Martin** - December 18, 2020 at 04:01 PM

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“ 11 files added to the album Treasured Memories of our beloved Jody



**Gail Waits** - December 15, 2020 at 11:18 PM

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“ 12 files added to the album Treasured Memories of our precious Jody



**Gail Waits** - December 15, 2020 at 05:53 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**William Martin** - December 13, 2020 at 04:05 AM



“ Our love and prayers to all Bonnie and Larry Cohen

**Bonnie and Larry Cohen** - December 12, 2020 at 03:49 PM

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“ I had the pleasure of knowing Jody for a little over 10 years. We met at work in 2010 and worked together until she retired in 2019. She was a lovely person to know and a good role model. I have a young daughter and I hope to be a good Mom to her like Jody was to her kids and Grandkids. She loved them so much and I felt like I was part of her Family hearing her talk about them with so much love over the years. The last time I saw Jody was at her Retirement party and I will always remember how happy, beautiful and vibrant she was that night. I am so sorry for her loss and and pray for her family.

**Tami Murchio** - December 12, 2020 at 12:01 PM

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“ Any of us lucky enough to be friends of Jody know how blessed we were. That ever-smiling, warm laugh and smile blessed us all, and that was just the beginning. There was so much love and caring beyond that. I remember well the kids Christmas program she put on that was so touching and meaningful to all of us, but especially to the kids that participated. Her love of people,kids, and music was so wonderful. We will be praying for her wonderful family. God Bless

**Elaine Jensen** - December 11, 2020 at 07:38 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**William Martin** - December 11, 2020 at 01:11 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**William Martin** - December 11, 2020 at 01:06 PM

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“ Don & Kathy Zeppenfeld purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Jody Martin.



**Don & Kathy Zeppenfeld** - December 07, 2020 at 02:17 PM

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“ I met Jody through work in 2006. We quickly went from coworkers to good friends. I always thought of and referred to Jody as my angel on earth. Jody's love for her family, friends and God was unwavering. I still can't believe that she has gone home to God, she will be dearly missed by so many but never forgotten. I know that Jody will be watching over her family and I can only hope that the pain of her absence will be replaced by your wonderful memories of precious times with her. For Jody's family, I can only wish you time. Time will help heal the fresh wounds that are so painful right now, allow yourself to grieve. Rest In Peace my dear friend, until we meet again.  
Love you and thank you for being such a special friend.

Kathy Zeppenfeld

**Kathy Zeppenfeld** - December 07, 2020 at 01:55 PM

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“ One of my very, very favorite memories goes back to 1991, when Jody, Billy, Ben, and Kim all came to Tacoma for Christmas. We threw a Christmas party and invited Jody's best of friends from high school and college. It was a blast. I decorated a special Christmas Tree wrapped in angel hair. Jody sat in a recliner and stared at for hours. She said it was the most beautiful tree she had ever seen. It was a great Christmas and such a blessing to have her home again. Jody and I got together again for her 50th high school reunion. I was her date for the evening. It was so much fun seeing all her high school friends again and as always, Jody was the main attraction. Everyone loved her so. Then as Billy said, in 2019 they came to Seattle for an Alaskan Cruise. My brother Bob and his wife, MaryAnn came up from Oregon for the occasion. My daughters Jennifer and Michelle, Darcy - daughter-in-law, and my granddaughter, Mylee also joined us for a day of fun at Seattle pier. We had lunch at Ivar's and we were recorded on "Grown in Washington" sequel. Billy was interviewed and Jody loved watching him be his candid self. He was a hit and she loved it! One last story, when Daddy retired from the Air Force and we moved from St. Pete to Tacoma, we lived in a motel called The Rose on S. Tacoma Way. My family became friends with a Hispanic Family and all of them played instruments. So at night Jody would sing with them and entertain all of the guests. Mostly servicemen and families relocating to the area. She truly was and still is an inspiration to me. She is my angel. Rest in peace, my beautiful sister.

**Lynda Kincaid** - December 04, 2020 at 03:12 PM



“ Lynda, what special memories. I never got to know Jody that well, but I sure remember the time she came with your mom to our house to pick you up...She was so full of life and pretty and our son, Brian, who was about 7 at the time, simply fell in love with her....After her trip to Wa. the last time we talked on facebook and declared that we had to get together the next time she was in Wa. Well that reunion will have to wait until we are both in heaven, but it was a good dream....Hopefully, we can do a get together with you anyway. Our love and prayers to you and the rest of her family....Heaven got another angel to sing in the choir and we just have to keep that in our thoughts. Love you.

**Ruby Lord** - December 12, 2020 at 12:26 PM

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“ Jody and I met in our junior year of High School during choir. She was the new girl and right away she was seen as such a warm person, someone you wanted to get to know. We sang in the same section and she and I struck up a conversation (we probably shouldn't have been talking in class) but we exchanged phone numbers and soon after I called her. I can recall making that call, standing in the kitchen and looking out the window toward the direction of her house. We were so excited because we were in easy walking distance. Remember those were the times when almost no one drove or certainly had a car, we walked! Jody and I shared the joy of singing and much of our time together involved our love of music. We sang in our high school performance group called The Silvertones so, along with choir and Silvertones rehearsals and performances throughout the area, we were together a lot! Everyone loved Jody, she was not just the new girl, she was the new girl with the big smile that could light up a room, and a genuinely warm personality. She was beautiful with the voice of an angel.

Jump forward, Jody and I and 2 other singers went off to college together. I didn't stay long as I chose marriage, and that was 52 years ago. Jody was our Maid of Honor at the wedding. We took different paths but we did share our first -born children only 2 weeks apart! Jody was my daycare provider when I went back to work and I couldn't have found a better place for my daughter. Later Jody moved to Florida and we saw each other only periodically, but we tried to keep in touch. Jody was my only Best Friend, throughout my life, and I always loved her even when we were out of touch. I will forever treasure her friendship and the times we shared. I know she touched so many lives and we are all so much better for having her in ours. To her family, hold close the memories of a life so well lived and one that will be missed always. Love to all.

Bonnie Chappel

Bonnie Chappel - December 03, 2020 at 02:11 PM

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“ Jody and I worked together at GTE Companion Service about 40 years ago. I moved to Boston within a year of meeting Jody, but we kept our friendship alive and well through hand-written letters, calls and emails. Jody was a ray of sunshine in this world. She brighten the day of anyone that had the honor of knowing her. She was so proud of her kids and grandkids; her family gave her so much joy. Jody was kind, compassionate and very caring. She will always be in my heart. My heartfelt condolences to Bill and the family.

Alicia Lewis - December 02, 2020 at 08:00 PM

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“ Rick and I met Jody and Bill through my sister Gail, many years ago. Through the years we would see each other at various functions and each time we saw each other, it was as if no time had passed. Once Rick and I moved back to Pinellas County, Gail and I were lucky enough to spend more time with her, especially since she retired. I will remember Jody as that person most of us aspire to be...kind, positive, non - judge-mental, faithful to family, friends and God. So blessed for the privilege of knowing her. May everyone who knew Jody, find peace in memories of her beautiful soul.

Jan and Rick McGimsey

Jan McGimsey - December 01, 2020 at 09:45 PM

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“ Jody and I met in 1982 when we worked together at GTE Companion Service. Jody would brighten any room she walked into with her gorgeous smile, awesome personality, grace and demeanor She was a friend to everyone. She loved the Lord with all her heart.

My deepest heartfelt sympathy and condolences to Bill, Kim and the family on the loss of our precious Jody. Know that our loving God will give you strength and in time, He will heal your broken heart. In His Love, Marie Peterson, Jacksonville, Florida

Marie Peterson - December 01, 2020 at 04:25 AM

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“ Marie Peterson lit a candle in memory of Jody Martin



Marie Peterson - December 01, 2020 at 04:08 AM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Jody Martin.



November 30, 2020 at 10:00 AM

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“ I am truly blessed & very fortunate to have had you as my Mother for 50 years. While I feel that you were taken from me far too soon, nothing can take away those years. You were the most loving, caring, gentle, sweet, nonjudgmental Mother I could have ever asked for. Our path in life is not predetermined. It is full of many twists & turns. Lord knows I've had my share, but I always had you as the one constant. The one person I could count on and who loved me unconditionally. Our Sunday phone calls always got my week started on a positive note. I already miss those conversations so much. Just the sound of your voice assured me, no matter what challenges the week might bring, everything would be alright. They say time heals all wounds. I'm afraid this one is going to take awhile, if not the rest of my life. I am thankful that you are no longer suffering & in the arms of your Lord now. I miss you & love you so much!!

**Ben Coffey** - November 30, 2020 at 01:22 AM

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“ Penny Vickery lit a candle in memory of Jody Martin



**Penny Vickery** - November 28, 2020 at 07:15 AM

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“ Jody was my cherished friend of 40 years. I loved her with all my heart. We met in 1980 when we worked together at GTE Companion Service. We developed a life long friendship and she was a huge part of my life. We had such fun and shared countless adventures. For many years we used to drive the long commute to work together. Our hours driving gave us plenty of time to talk about everything under the sun. Secrets, hopes, dreams and fears. She was like a sister to me and was a friend you could always count on in a time of need. Jody had a heart of gold. She was beautiful inside and out, smart as a whip, funny, kind and compassionate. Over the years we shared joyous celebrations and milestones and grieved together over losses. She lifted our spirits with her beautiful singing when my Mom and Dad died. When I shut my eyes and think of her, it is her gorgeous smile that I first see and which makes me both cry and smile. Jody was devoted to Bill and Kim and Ben and Chad and their families. She was so proud of her beautiful grandchildren and always eager to share photos of them and talk about their plans and accomplishments. She loved her family so very much. She will be watching over, and smiling down from above, on Ben and Sonya when they marry on her birthday. Lee and I send our love and condolences to all her family as we mourn the loss of our wonderful friend. Gail and Lee Waits

**Gail Waits** - November 27, 2020 at 11:31 PM

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“ I have realized there are no words to properly describe what a truly special person Jody was. I know so many people will miss her as a friend but so much more is her family . But she left them a legacy of love that no one else could have created for them. That cannot be taken away and was truly a gift of God, as was she. Love to you all.

**Elaine Jensen** - November 27, 2020 at 05:17 PM

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“ Maureen Aupperlee lit a candle in memory of Jody Martin



**Maureen Aupperlee** - November 27, 2020 at 04:31 PM

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“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



William Martin - November 25, 2020 at 10:22 AM

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“ Jodi was a dear friend and I could not have made it when my husband died. She came over to my house the night he passed away and stayed with me all evening until my family arrived. I will always remember our "iced tea afternoons" while the kids were in school. Linda Hoyt

Linda Bishop Hoyt - November 25, 2020 at 08:31 AM

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“ Alicia Lewis is following this tribute.

Alicia Lewis - November 24, 2020 at 09:49 PM

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“ Jody will always be loved and remembered. Her love of her family and friends was unending. Jody has been a part of my life since we were 19 years old and in college. Wonderful and many memories I will carry with me always. My husband and I were privileged to have her sing at our wedding. What a beautiful voice she had. Her faith was strong and she was a blessing and inspiration to all. We will miss her terribly. She is our Angel in Heaven. Many blessings and comfort to Bill, Ben, Kim and families. We love you.

Greg and Leigh Cossette

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/storage.lifetributes.com/Gifts/Butterfly.png>



Leigh and Greg Cossette - November 24, 2020 at 08:43 PM



“ I never knew Jody personally, but I can tell from her smile that she was a beautiful and caring person. She shines through to the ones I do know - her daughter, Kim, and her granddaughter, Riley. Prayers and hugs to the entire family as you go through this difficult time. The Mann Family

**Joni Mann** - November 24, 2020 at 07:32 PM

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“ Jody was a loving caring lady.....beautiful inside and out. Always a beautiful smile and always ready to help those that needed her. She will be missed every day. All the wonderful memories of her with family and friends will always remain in our hearts. Condolences to the family. She is now an angel watching over her family. I light this candle in her memory.



**Betty Davis** - November 24, 2020 at 04:07 PM



“ Thanks Betty, jody loved you very much

**Bill Martin** - November 24, 2020 at 07:32 PM



“ I will miss my dear friend everyday. Jody was the kindest soul with the most gorgeous smile. She would light up a room when she walked in. There are so many memories we made that will be in my heart forever. You are our Angel... We love you. Kenny & Mo

**Kenny & Mo Aupperlee** - November 27, 2020 at 04:28 PM



“ Jody was a faithful volunteer at our church and loved the children she worked with like they were her own. She was the leader of several Christmas productions put on at our church and her patience and zeal were the glue that held the rehearsals together. I remember attending a cookie exchange party at her home during the Christmas season and being in awe of all her decorations. She always shrugged off the compliments but they were well deserved. Her legacy through her children and grandchildren are a testimony to the mother and grandmother that she was and her influence will live on through them. I wish she could have hung on through the holidays but I realize that celebrating the birth of Jesus, with Jesus in person, is much better!

**Becky Evans** - December 05, 2020 at 09:19 PM



“ I just found this terrible news. I worked with Jody years ago. She was a wonderful person. She had so much love to give, she always tried to make everyone feel like they belonged. I wish love, peace and harmony to her family. The memories you have with her will always be with you. Love to you angel Jody.

**Auntie** - December 11, 2020 at 12:05 PM