

Mary Jo Burke, HOPE Member, PNW

Mary Jo Burke, who certified in November '04 with her Golden Retriever, Annie, ended her struggle with cancer January 15, 2007. From the first moment we met Mary Jo, it was clear that she was someone with a huge heart and unusually generous spirit. We all looked forward to being around her infectious warmth, wonderful smiles, delightful humor, and never-ending words of encouragement. She was always there to give support, listen, share her experiences, and respond with a natural wisdom coupled with genuine concern.

Mary Jo's love and enthusiasm for her family was a strong foundation. From this center, she reached out and served the community in many ways. Her long time involvement with animal-assisted therapy with children, teenagers, and adults of all ages, along with her work with HOPE AACR, was a true reflection and extension of her love and respect for humans and animals. She lived her life fully, unselfishly, with a giving heart. She left it with an inspiring legacy of tremendous strength and courage.

Mary Jo was a gift to all who were lucky to know her, one of those rare and special people who left the world a much better place for her having been here. She will be deeply missed as wife, mother, grandmother, friend, & colleague.