



Mary Beth Zolik Smith

May 4, 1954 - July 1, 2021

Mom, wife, beloved friend, and local radio personality Mary Beth Zolik-Smith died at home on July 1st, 2021, in the presence of her family and a beautiful sunset. She has been valiantly fighting various forms of cancer over the last nine years. Left to cherish the memories of her extraordinary life are loving husband Terry, and loving children Tara (Zachary) Cowell, Derek Smith, and Cullin Smith. Mary Beth was born in Detroit, Michigan on May 4th, 1954, to Michael and Gaye Zolik. She shared an idyllic childhood with brothers Michael (Cathy), and Daniel (Jan). Also surviving are sister-in-law Kathy (Dave) Redman, brother-in-law Michael (Sharon) Smith, nephews Sean (Diane) Smith, Nathan (Heather) Zolik, Michael (Sasha) Zolik, and nieces Alycia (Marty) Rhein, Maureen (Andrew) Faris, Laura (Brandon) Pearce, Antonia (Harry) Johnson Lesgold, Erin Smith, and Maribeth Redman.

Mary Beth graduated from Immaculata High school, an all-girls Catholic school in Warren, Michigan. She believed the foundation of her high school education empowered her as a woman to pursue a career in radio when few women were a part of the industry. She went on to study broadcast journalism at Wayne State University, graduating Phi Beta Kappa. Mary Beth began her radio career in 1976 at WJR in Detroit, moved on to a station in Charlotte, North Carolina, and in 1980, her 36+ year career in Toledo commenced. First with partner Jack Mitchell, and upon his retirement, with partner Rick Woodell. Mary Beth was blessed to have two radio partners who made her job more fun than work. She experienced fulfillment bringing her wit, humor, and humility to radio listeners throughout Northwest Ohio. Mary Beth's relatability made listeners want to tune in each morning. Additionally, she received great joy in volunteering her time to help raise funds in support of organizations like The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, The Humane Society, the Alzheimer's Association, WGTE Public Media, and Mom's House (where she was awarded Mother of the Year in 2011). In addition to her charitable works, Mary Beth was honored to be inducted into the Ohio Broadcaster's Hall of Fame in 2005.

Aside from her decades-long career, Mary Beth loved to travel, having visited destinations on 6 of 7 continents. Some of Mary Beth's favorite international travel experiences

included climbing Mount Fuji in Japan, riding a hot air balloon over the Serengeti in Tanzania, visiting the Vatican in Rome, and dancing atop the Hills of Salzburg, Austria where her favorite movie *The Sound of Music* was filmed. However, of all the international locations she visited, Mary Beth felt most connected to Ireland. The family trip there created memories that will remain vibrant in our minds forever. Stateside, frequent vacations to the beaches of Rhode Island encompassed two of Mary Beth's favorite things: her feet in the sand and family by her side. Without question, raising Tara, Derek, and Cullin gave Mary Beth her greatest joy. She continuously showed her children unconditional love and taught them that kindness is the best gift you can give to others.

Mary Beth and her family are most appreciative of the care provided to her at Flower Hospital, University of Michigan, and the Cleveland Clinic. The family would like to acknowledge Timothy Kasunic, MD, who served as a remarkable physician, advisor, and friend during her battle with cancer. Joining Mary Beth on her journey of life are countless loving and faithful friends. We're confident you know who you are and how much she valued your companionship, laughter, and prayers. Mary Beth was a bright light in this world, and her spirit will continue to shine. We hope you smile and think of Mary Beth when you witness your next breathtaking sunset.

Memorial contributions may be made to the following organizations in her memory. Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, The Toledo Humane Society, Alzheimer's Association, WGTE Public Media or to Moms House.

Friends may visit at the Coyle Funeral Home, 1770 S Reynolds Rd on Thursday July 8, 2021 from 3-8 pm. The Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Friday July 9th at Little Flower of Jesus Catholic Church, 5522 Dorr St., Toledo, Ohio, 43615 at 10:00 am where the family will start greeting guest at 9:30 am. Interment will be private. For those who wish to attend the Funeral Mass via Live Stream, please go to littleflowertoledo.org and click on the LiveStream link to watch the Funeral Mass at 10:00 a.m.

Events

JUL **Visitation** 03:00PM - 08:00PM

8

Coyle Funeral Home

1770 S. Reynolds Road, Toledo, OH, US, 43614

JUL **Funeral Ceremony** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

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Little Flower Of Jesus

5562 Dorr St., Toledo, OH 43615, Toledo, OH, US, 43615

Comments



“ We moved from New York to Toledo Ohio in the late 1990's. The Smiths lived a couple of doors down from us, and they welcomed us with open arms. Mary Beth had an infectious personality, and her compassion towards others was more than obvious. We didn't listen to the radio much, but when we did, Mary Beth (her voice, her laugh, her humor) made everyday a better day, and she will always be remembered for that.

Grief NEVER ends, but it changes. It is NOT a sign of weakness or lack of faith....It is the price of LOVE....

Terry, Tara, Derek and Cullin; please know your are all in our thoughts and prayers. Mary Beth Legacy will NEVER be forgotten.

Kevin, Rebecca, Connor, Caitlin, and Cooper Barrett

Rebecca Barrett - July 11 at 09:22 AM



“ Terry,

I am holding you and those many, many people who loved Mary Beth close to my heart. While there are no words that will make this time easier, please know that if prayer and hope and love help, Mary, Gail and I are sending those your way in massive amounts.

Take care my friend.

Doni Miller

doni miller - July 09 at 06:14 PM



“ If I hadn't been on the air when she was on....I would have listened to Mary Beth. She was quick witted, a great story teller and had an ability to make listeners feel like they were her good friends.

My sincere condolences to her family and friends.

Bob Kelly

Norm Plumer - July 09 at 05:10 PM



“ How does a person actually look forward to getting up at 4:30 every morning even on a cold winter's day and drive to work happily even joyously and do it for more than 25 years.

How? by having Mary Beth Zolik Smith as your radio partner..

Before our partnership I had begun to run out of gas. She made it fun again.

What a blessing. Her wit, intelligence, charm and sense of fun were always there.
As a friend. Always solid!
As a radio personality. Superlative!

To her wonderful family, husband Terry and Tara, Derek and Cullin.. My heartfelt thoughts.

Mary Beth will always be in my heart.

Jack Mitchell

Jack Mitchell - July 08 at 03:15 PM



“ As one of the Koney kids (Jill) across the street on Sunset during our idyllic childhood in Detroit I can attest that Mary Beth, Mr. Mike and Mrs. Gaye were central in most of our excellent childhood memories. Our hearts are breaking with sadness that we have lost our Mary Beth. From making me walk 3 steps behind her as we walked to school at St. Bartholomew (because she was 2 years older and so much cooler), to vacations at Lake City and Mullet Lake (where Mary Beth would recruit us to be actors in her plays involving villains and cowboy heroes), to borrowing my dad's handkerchief at the movies to clean her seat up after laughing too hard, to playing explorer with me by chipping away the mortar in our house bricks, to taking me to a Tigers game when she worked for WJR where we met Mark the Bird Fidrych in the Tiger Stadium parking lot, to using our moms as fodder for her comedy bits. MB was our bright light of fun and mischief and everything good about growing up with a village (our parents were in the "crowd" - a group of devoted everlasting friends, mostly growing up together in Hamtramck). Mary Beth found her special guy in Terry and what a joyous wedding it was! How overjoyed she was to become a mother to 3 exceptional children! My deepest heartfelt condolences to Terry, Tara, Derek and Cullin; Michael and Danny and their families. Of course you know your wife/mom/sister/aunt was extra-special. Although our world is a bit dimmer without her in it, our memories surely will bring a smile and we must all remember to laugh when we can. I'm confident that is what she would want.

Jill Koney Daly - July 08 at 03:03 PM



“ I had a 30 minute drive to work everyday my entire career. Every morning I would get in the car and turn on K-100 to tune in to Mitch and Mary Beth. My drive went by very quickly listening to their wonderful rapport and laughter and fun. Peace and love to her whole family.

Carla Lynn McConnell - July 07 at 10:35 PM



“ Dr. Thomas & Dr. Mrs. Latifat Osinowo purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Mary Beth Zolik Smith.



Thomas Osinowo - July 07 at 08:57 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mary Beth Zolik Smith.



July 07 at 05:29 PM



“ 2 files added to the album VIDEO TRIBUTE



COYLE FUNERAL HOME VIDEOS - July 07 at 09:53 AM



“ Marybeth, Robin and Rosanne wrapped their arms around me 37 years ago and we've stayed close ever since. There are too many funny, laugh-til-you-cry stories to choose one.

It is those mundane things - walks, chats, lunches, sharing book and movie titles and going to the movies - these are the times spent with Marybeth that I will cherish.

Robin and I will be at Downton Abbey 2 IN COSTUME and I know Marybeth will be laughing .

Monica

Monica McGuire - July 07 at 08:21 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mary Beth Zolik Smith.



July 06 at 06:25 PM



“ Dear family of Mary Beth,

Waking up every AM to hear her always put you in a good mood to start the day. Thru her program, she became one of your closest friends (tho we never met), along w/ her family, which she treasured.

When she announced her diagnosis she immediately went on my “cancer prayer list” and will now go on “my RIP list”, We’ve missed her for a very long time. Hope her transition was peaceful and that her years of retirement were fruitful, memorable and loving as she was.

We, too, share in your sorrow.
Her faithful listeners,
Dick & Rosie Koziarski

Rosie Koziarski - July 06 at 02:27 PM



“ Terry, Tara, Derek and Cullen, I'm sorry for your loss.

Guaranteed, every single time I spoke with or saw Marybeth, it was noting but laughter. Her wit and understanding was incomparable. She connected on so many levels and always saw the funny side of life. She leaves so many precious memories for those she interacted with. She lives on forever in our hearts. Kathryn Moton

Kathryn Moton - July 06 at 12:41 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Beth Zolik Smith.



July 06 at 11:19 AM



“ Rosemary & Gary purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mary Beth Zolik Smith.



Rosemary & Gary - July 06 at 10:11 AM



“ Today God call Mary Beth home after her long fight With cancer. Best known co hosting 101.5 the River's Mitch and Mary Beth in the mornng and Rick and Mary Beth. My thoughts and prayers go to her family and friends. She will be truly miss by all. Thanks Mary Beth for the all the laughs and good times you bought to The River. Rest In Peace.



Alex Young - July 05 at 01:13 PM



“ Ruth Easterwood lit a candle in memory of Mary Beth Zolik Smith



Ruth Easterwood - July 05 at 11:30 AM



“ M.B. as I called her, was the sunshine in our wake up radio mornings. You could sense her gentle, kind and helping spirit. She had the gift of making one feel right at home. She didn't hesitate as a D.J. to share her everyday life from the dogs shenanigan's to her son's guitar playing. She and Jack Mitchell's chemistry together on the morning radio show was exceptional and both of them have been truly missed by those of us who woke up everyday to their bantering, sharing stories and making us laugh to brighten our early morning work days. Her will and spirit were strong and kept her going when others would have given up the fight. May her family hold all of their happy memories close in their hearts now through this difficult time. Her physical presence may be gone yet she is now an angel watching over her earthly family. May all of the memories you have made with MB bring you some comfort during this transition of life without her earthly presence. You know what she would want you to do as I'm sure she told you many times in the recent years and the day will come when you can dry your tears and smile in her memories. Signed.... A senior radio listener. from the old days.....Ruth Ann Easterwood

Ruth Easterwood - July 05 at 11:29 AM



“ Terry and family, my deepest sympathy to all of you. May your wonderful memories of Mary Beth comfort you.

Sue Sherman

Sue Sherman - July 04 at 05:49 PM



“ I was giving a donation in MB's name to the American Cancer society. As I was filling out all the info and completed the forms. I addressed the outside of the envelope. As I addressed the envelope I got to writing the city down and it was Oklahoma City, OK. She sent her sign to me she was ok. The story is one of our trips to San Diego in Dec. 1974 (which is a big naval town) and MB was in a happy mood and we were in a navy hangout(bar). This good looking sailor approached our table dressed in his whites and he talked in his southern accent when she asked him where r u from. He stated Oklahoma City. She mimic his southern accent back and etc. That is a private moment I won't share. If we all open ourselves up she may not be here physically but she sure is talking to us. She will appear when u least expect it! Love u MB

Susie Hohler - July 04 at 05:28 PM



“ We share the joy in the many memories we have of this wonderful woman and her God-given ability to communicate to almost everyone with love, compassion, mercy, and empathy. We, therefore, have dedicated our lives to be like Jesus to others in remembrance, and honor, and tribute to her, her happy husband, and other family members.

Robert & Peggy Moyers - July 04 at 03:04 PM



“ John, Mary Ann and Molly Vargo purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Mary Beth Zolik Smith.



John, Mary Ann and Molly Vargo - July 04 at 12:51 PM



“ To my beautiful Zolik and Smith Families,
“My tears are becoming a sea...”
My very most gentle and heartfelt condolences to you all at the unimaginable loss of your marvelous Mary Beth...
I have wondrous memories that tell our story...and blanket me in ribbons of joy, gratitude and Peace...
As Leonard Cohen wrote...
“Dance me to the end...”
until we meet again...
Requiescat in pace dear lovely soul
IN LOVE AND LIGHT ALWAYS
Mary Pat Stacy

Mary Pat Stacy - July 04 at 11:14 AM



“ Was heart broken to here that she is no longer with us, I loved hearing her on the radio from many years past. To me she was one special,awesome lady so jolie that she made you feel great. My prayers for all her family and friends for strength at this soooooo very,very sad time. Keep your faith strong and with Jesus with you all, Mary Beth will always be with yous forever.

betty - July 03 at 11:15 PM



“ A number of years ago our rescue Best Friends Forever received an app on a dog we had. The meet and greet was set up to take the dog to meet her and terry. My car broke down at Spring Meadows and i called to cancel. Mary Beth drove all way over, took us to her home, met Terry and her current dog. They adopted our dog even tho they were worried their dog would not be happy. Afterwards she returned me to the car repair. I want to say they were the warmest kindest family i have ever met. Everyone is sorry to lose her but Heaven is so happy. Thank you mary beth for being you.

Connie Ayres - July 03 at 08:43 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Beth Zolik Smith.



July 03 at 07:59 PM



“ Terry, Tara & Zach, Derek, and Cullin,
Know that you are all in my thoughts and prayers. I have such loving and fun memories of Mary Beth as "Mom" and friend as she, and you, Terry, guided you kids through those years at SJA. She was so proud of you and just recently she told me how happy she was that you are all back together once again. Heaven has now been blessed with a beautiful angel. May you all be blessed as her spirit, her joy, and her kindness continue to shine in you! You are a wonderful family!
Much love,
"Mrs. Ponzi"

Tina Ponzi - July 03 at 07:55 PM



“ We met at a school board meeting in Charlotte, NC, when we were both rookie reporters. From that day on, for the next 42 years, I had the privilege of calling Mary Beth my friend. She was a gift to all who were lucky enough to encounter her loving, unconditional spirit. My heart is filled with gratitude for her role in my life and for the way she so generously shared (and connected) friends and family. I already miss her so...



Ellen Shuman - July 03 at 07:39 PM



“ Today God call Mary Beth home after her long fight With cancer. Best known co hosting 101.5 the River's Mitch and Mary Beth in the mornng and Rick and Mary Beth. My thoughts and prayers go to her family and friends. She will be truly miss by all. Thanks Mary Beth for the all the laughs and good times you bought to The River. Rest In Peace.

Alex Young - July 03 at 06:49 PM



“ Better
Today God call Mary Beth home after her long fight With cancer. Best known co hosting 101.5 the River's Mitch and Mary Beth in the mornng and Rick and Mary Beth. My thoughts and prayers go to her family and friends. She will be truly miss by all. Thanks Mary Beth for the all the laughs and good times you bought to The River. Rest In Peace.

Alex Young - July 03 at 06:48 PM



“ Better
Today God call Mary Beth home after her long fight With cancer. Best known co hosting 101.5 the River's Mitch and Mary Beth in the mornng and Rick and Mary Beth. My thoughts and prayers go to her family and friends. She will be truly miss by all. Thanks Mary Beth for the all the laughs and good times you bought to The River. Rest In Peace.

Alex Young - July 03 at 06:47 PM



“ My deepest condolences to Terry and their family. It was an honor to know you Mary Beth. Tami

Tami Rockwell - July 03 at 05:55 PM



“ Steve Jablonski purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Mary Beth Zolik Smith.



Steve Jablonski - July 03 at 05:01 PM



“ It was a blast being a member of Mary Beth's radio family in Toledo.
Steve Jablonski

Steve Jablonski - July 03 at 04:39 PM



“ Too many memories but I and so many listeners, were with her during her wedding and pregnancies and childbirth and enjoyed so many stories of all these events. Much love!

Barbara dargartz - July 03 at 04:38 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Mary Beth Zolik Smith.



July 03 at 04:31 PM



“ That dinner and conversation was special and you forever changed my life. Faith and Patience you said....so true. Thank you just doesn't seem enough, forever in your debt. Rest easy my dear friend. God and I love you.

Larry skrdla - July 03 at 01:42 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mary Beth Zolik Smith.



July 03 at 11:15 AM



“ An angel sent by God. A cousin, sister and best friend forever. I'll see you on the other side. I love you.

Susie Hohler

Susie Hohler - July 02 at 05:24 PM



“ Terry, this is Sandra, Rick Woodell's sister. I am saddened by your family's tremendous loss. I remember every happy minute I was able to share with Mary Beth

Sandra Woodell Chipman - July 04 at 07:34 AM



“ Hi, Terry.

I am so very sorry for your loss. And I am sorry I didn't know Mary Beth - she sounds like such a wonderful person. I did meet her briefly when she judged a dog show for mixed breed dogs and I entered my once-feral border collie mix "Hope", whom I had live-trapped with her eight puppies near the old Spencer Sharples School. Mary Beth was very interested in Hope's story and thought she was a beautiful dog, so she was obviously a great judge of character!

My deepest sympathy to you, Tara, Derek, and Cullin.

Mary Strater Barber

Mary Strater Barber - July 04 at 02:03 PM



“ Mary Beth was a good friend of mine for the 2 years I attended Immaculata High School in Detroit many years ago. I always loved her humor, kindness and beautiful spirit. We had so much fun together sharing our Polish Heritage. After a lapse of over 40 years, our paths crossed again through her brother, Dan. We connected and communicated and were able to meet up where I reside in Traverse City. We met for a special breakfast a few summers when she visited her brother and Dad. It was like we had never been apart and it was such a memorable time visiting with her. A highlight to my visit 2 years ago was to meet Terry, Tara and Zach. What a beautiful family!

My heart and prayers are with her entire family and I know she is spreading her love and humor around the heavens. Such a spectacular lady who will be sorely missed by all who knew her.

Liz Berlin Hemming - July 07 at 11:12 PM



“ Terry, so sorry to hear about Mary Beth. Wishing you comfort during this difficult time, and our deepest sympathies go out to you and your family.

Dave and Linda Cain

David Cain - July 07 at 11:50 PM



“ For all of us who had the great good fortune to work with Mary Beth during her brief 2 year tenure as a reporter at WBT Radio in Charlotte, North Carolina in the early 1980's...I'm sending love, support and appreciation to Terry and her kids. Mary Beth was excellent in her job, and more importantly charmed every one in the newsroom and at the station with her bright, funny and smart personality.

Personally, she was a great friend to me as I went through some tough personal times.

No one wanted her to leave the station, maybe least of all me, but she KNEW she had to

be closer to her family and friends in the mid-west, so she went back without a clue where she'd land.

Three days after her 28th birthday in May of 1982, she wrote to me that she'd "had lunch with the WSPD general manager...and he would like me to come back as the morning co-anchor...not news...but personality, bits, humor, and topical information. Much the same as you were doing at WBT, I think. I must admit the personality thing intrigues me very much. The morning man and I get along famously... I don't know. I do know I could be far more creative as a personality than as a newscaster....and it is something I would like to try..."

Never would it be more appropriate to say to THAT letter that "the rest is history..." Toledo radio history, life grounding personal history, and a history of sweet day-to-day connection with a listening audience. For that audience, Mary Beth became part of their personal coping and living history.

She made a difference in countless other lives. Mine included. I was just one of the smaller section of people who got to see her nearly every day, in person, for a time. I was blessed to be able to tap into the even greater font of personality and love she could shine on those she knew and appreciated.

THANK YOU MARY BETH. LOVE TO YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

Paul Ingles on behalf of MBZ's WBT friends and colleagues

<http://paulingles.com>

Paul Ingles - July 09 at 11:31 AM



“ Terry and Family,

I too was a morning listener as I drove to Toledo to work every weekday. She and her partners made the trip so much easier and put me in a positive mood for the day ahead.

I was lucky enough to meet her when she shared her travel experiences on two separate occasions with the professional organization where I belonged for many years. She was so genuinely friendly and funny. She had such a great outlook on life.

Rest in peace Mary Beth.

Cora Shaffer

Cora F Shaffer - July 09 at 04:01 PM