



Jean Pilon

March 9, 2023

Montessori educator, businesswoman, and horsewoman, Jean Marie Pilon passed away March 9th in Fort Collins, Colorado after a battle with Frontotemporal Dementia. Jean faced the difficulties of FTD with her characteristic zest for life. Her bright-loving personality made her a joy to all the staff and brought meaning and joy to her son's family who cared for her in her last years and days.

Jean was born on December 20, 1936, to parents James Clifton Alexander and Edith Juanita Jones. Jean was married to John Leonard Pilon Jr. on October 8, 1960, in Glenview, Illinois. John and Jean lived in La Grange Park, Illinois, and they enjoyed racing sailboats out of Burnham Park Harbor in Chicago. Jean received her Masters in Education from the Chicago Teachers College in 1963 followed by subsequent training in Montessori education. Jean started her first Montessori School school in the Chicago area in the early seventies.

Jean and her family moved to Douglas County Colorado in 1975 where she continued her life-long commitment to Montessori and educating children. Jean rented out the Castle Rock Pool building to start her first Colorado Montessori school in 1975. Jean subsequently purchased an empty lot at 995 N. Ridge Road in Castle Rock and built the Castle Rock Montessori School building that is currently occupied by the Emmaus Anglican Church. Jean's

boundless energy led her to start a second school, the Montessori School at Lone Tree and was an essential driver for the formation of the DCS Montessori School. Both schools continue Jean's legacy of providing outstanding Montessori education in Douglas County and Southern Denver.

Jean was also an avid horsewoman, traveler, and loved sea kayaking in the waters of Captiva, Florida. Jean regularly participated in 50-mile endurance horse races with her beloved Arabians Gazon and Embolden. Jean is survived by her husband John L. Pilon Jr., brother Roger Alexander, Sister-in-Law Ramelle Alexander; daughter Jackie A. Schiable, son John L. Pilon III, Daughter-in-Law Marcella A. Pilon; and grandchildren Marguerite Pilon, Ella Pilon, Linden Schiable, Hayden Schiable and Danica Schiable

In lieu of a service, the Staff of the Lone Tree Montessori School and her son John will be starting a 501c(3) non-profit, "The Jean M. Pilon Foundation for Montessori Education", focused on training the next generation of Montessori teachers and supporting underserved families seeking high-quality private Montessori education. For additional information on how to contribute please contact Melissa Graham at: frontoffice@montessoriatlonetree.com or (303) 799-8540.

Tribute Wall

BJ

“ My children attended the Montessori school in Lone Tree. When Jean along with Marcy and Randy Nicholas approached me about started the first Montessori Elementary Charter School I immediately jumped on board. I was one of 7 founders of DCS Montessori School. I admired Jean and her excitement about teaches the children and her love for the Montessori education. When she moved out of Colorado we did not see her again. I often wondered where she was. I was thinking about her today and decided to try and find her by searching for John Pilon, and came across this obituary. I'm so sad that I never had the opportunity to thank her for her vision. My children received an excellent education through 6th grade at DCS Montessori. The school is still operating and now goes through 8th grade. Sadly our other founder Marcy Nicholas passed this year as well in February from early onset Alzheimer's. Marcy and I were very good friends and I remember several trips she took with Jean to do animal tracking. Jean was an extraordinary human being. Rest in Peace. 🥹

Beth Jankowski - July 09, 2023 at 09:20 PM

LL

“ It is with great sadness that I read of Jean's passing.

Both of my sons attended the Castle Rock Montessori School on Ridge Rd. back in the mid 1980's and what a foundation it gave them going into kindergarten!! I wanted to do both Montessori and 1/2 day kindergarten but finances wouldn't allow it at that time. The curriculum and the staff that taught it where fantastic.

Les Lilly

Les Lilly - April 23, 2023 at 02:55 PM