



## Jean "Joy" Plooster

May 17, 2025

Jean Joy Plooster (b. September 1942) passed away on May 17, 2025. The second daughter born to Cornelius and Beverly Plooster, she was an athletic tomboy early on, leaping and cartwheeling when others walked, and appropriately majoring in physical education in college. She moved to Colorado from Minnesota about 1972 to teach physical education and dance at UC and a Fort Collins high school, where she was much loved.

People often said that Joy had the perfect name-she WAS Joy! After several years of teaching, she became a dispatcher at the Larimer County Sheriff's Office, where she worked for 35 years. In that job she received a letter of commendation for her work during the Big Thompson Canyon flood. Upon retirement she volunteered for years at the Fort Collins Hospital Breast Cancer Center. Unfortunately, she suffered from osteoporosis and experienced several spontaneous fractures, including two of her spine. She entered assisted living at Good Samaritan Society and when the need for dementia care arose, moved to Collinwood Memory Care--who would have thought such a vibrant soul would suffer from that illness! We are grateful to both institutions for their loving care.

She is survived by her sister, 2 nephews, 3 grand-nephews and nieces. And thank you to two special friends Alice Rodrigues and Julie Mitchell who visited her all the years and took her to Culver's for her favorite treats.

No services are planned, but we will cherish her in our hearts. Please direct any memorials to animal welfare in honor of her beloved cat Winchester.

# Tribute Wall



“ I, too, was trained by Joy. And after training, we spent many hours in the CommCenter on our overlapping shifts. Some of those hours were spent quietly talking and laughing, and some of the hours we were so focused and busy handling calls we couldn't even look at each other, let alone speak. She always professional on the radio and on the phone. I never heard her loose her temper or treat anyone poorly. Well...there was that ONE time she referred to a frequent, irate caller (complainer) as an "OLD BLISTER". But she'd already hung up the phone, so that doesn't count. Peace to you, Joy. --A

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A - May 29, 2025 at 10:37 AM



“ "Queen Jean Joy" we affectionately referred to her as....mom worked at the LCSO in the Sheriff Watson Era -late 70's, early 80's with Ms. Plooster..and I had the honor of knowing her through mama. Many Friday or Saturday nights were spent at the 1100 club, either grabbing nachos at the Junction, or a cocktail at one of the local watering holes. She was a shining star in her career and loved by so many. Her and Mom kept in touch long after the LCSO...that's what friends do...she earned her wings...rest in peace "Queen Jean", "Plooz"...tell mama hi...love ya! Kalene Tysdal Sakurada - "Colleen, Moline"... IYKYK ❤️

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Kalene Sakurada - May 28, 2025 at 08:27 AM

MO

“ I started with the Larimer County Sheriff's Office in 1994 to help them implement the "first" computer aided dispatch system. My first day of work was sitting in a room with Joy and the other dispatchers in a training session. Needless to say, this was the start of a great adventure to bring Larimer County Sheriff's Office from paper dispatching to computer dispatching. Over the years, I would go to dispatch first thing in the morning to check on things and Joy and I would talk about how Larimer County was quickly changing from a rural area to a small city. I will always treasure the times I shared stories growing up near Masonville and she would share stories about dispatching in the 70's in the county. I think that perhaps some of her stories involved my brother and I in some shape or form. God Bless you Joy!

Mark Olson

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Mark Olson - May 27, 2025 at 05:21 PM

PS

“ Joy was an inspiring person, especially with the students at FCHS. She was one of the PE instructors for girls and really made every class exciting. She took time to listen to us and make us feel like we were friends. She was a great role model for us and I thank her. Joy, you will never be forgotten.

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Pam Swerer - May 26, 2025 at 06:49 PM

SJ

Go Lambkins!

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Sharol Faye Jacobson - May 29, 2025 at 12:20 PM

LW

“ I was in a fitness class with Joy quite a few years ago. We jumped and did aerobics to music for an hour together three times a week. She worked hard in the class and was always pleasant and easy to visit with. Unfortunately she took a step wrong or missed a step coming down to the lower level in her home and a break brought her attendance in the class to an end. We missed her cheerful presence in the class. I am sorry she had spontaneous breaks due to the osteoporosis and also had issues with dementia. She was a good person and did her best to handle whatever came her way. My sincere sympathy to her family members as you grieve this loss. I hope knowing she is now enjoying a pain free life in heaven brings peace and comfort as you miss her. With caring, Linda Wagner

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**linda wagner** - May 25, 2025 at 03:31 PM

BW

“ Here are a few more pictures...



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**Beth and Clarke Wright** - May 25, 2025 at 03:00 PM

BW

“ Cheryl and extended family, please accept our deepest condolences in the loss of your JOY! We spent many hours together with Joy and my mother, Rogene Borden attending an event or picnicking. We were thrilled to find her safe and sound at Fort Collins Good Samaritan Village where my husband and I entertain. We tried to capture a picture with her whenever we could so that mother could "see her" too. Will miss your scene of humor, Joy and know that the Denver Broncos have lost a great fan!



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**Beth and Clarke Wright** - May 25, 2025 at 02:56 PM

CJ

*Thank you we appreciate all the wonderful shared moments of Joy's life.*

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**Curt Jacobson** - June 02, 2025 at 06:05 PM

JM

“ I met Joy at Timberline Church in 2000. We were lucky to be greeters together. She loved seeing people and giving them a bulletin. She sat as close as she could to the stage, even when the music was loud. We had a hard time getting her to move from her spot.

When we were both retired we would meet once a month for breakfast. She definitely loved her Broncos! As time went on I would take her to her doctor's appointments and be her shopper when needed.

She was true Joy and a dear friend.

Julie Mitchell

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Julie Mitchell - May 22, 2025 at 08:08 PM

BW

Julie, Joy often spoke of you! I thank you 🙏 for being there so often for Joy. Bless you with experiences to enJOY 🌹

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Brth Wright - May 26, 2025 at 12:45 AM

SJ

Thanks so much to all who have written about Joy. I have actually learned a lot about things I HOPED people would say and things she actually did in her life--all consistent with the persona of the sister I loved.

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Sharol Faye Jacobson - May 29, 2025 at 12:18 PM

SP

“ Joy was my physical education teacher at Poudre High School my sophomore year 1969-1970. I reconnected with her about 3 years ago when I volunteered at Good Samaritan and she was a resident.

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Schanna Preuit - May 21, 2025 at 07:01 PM

AM

“ I met Joy in 1997 when I started at LCSO. I learned that she liked her morning coffee (preferably before the first traffic stop), that she liked sitting at one particular console in Dispatch, that she loved her cat, that she enjoyed golfing and old country music, and that she cheered for the Denver Broncos. I also learned that she was not a fan of cold, snowy Colorado winters or, understandably, of people showing up late to work. She was a proper person, but also had a lovely laugh and a twinkle in her eye.

During Joy's time at LCSO she saw the industry change incredibly. Joy worked Dispatch before 911 existed in Larimer County and was a pioneer in bringing that service to our citizens. She started dispatching when it was done on pen and paper and she grew with the industry as it became computerized. Joy served as the Jail matron when she was on duty; when the Jail was in the basement of the Sheriff's office and consisted of 3 cells. She would have to tend to the female inmates on the rare occasion that there was one. She typed reports using carbon paper. Joy knew everybody. A phone would ring and the caller would say their name. Joy would respond " Oh yes I remember when you used to work here! How are you doing?" Duties that Joy did back then have now been broken out into entire Divisions and Departments and we all stand on the shoulders of what Joy and her coworkers built back then, whether we realize it or not.

I work Joy's shift now and carry her number in seniority, which has always felt a little strange. I heard of her passing while at the dispatch console, which only seemed right. When I teach new dispatchers, her name still comes up and I hope I honor her memory when I share with the next generation in the "hot seat". Until I see you next, Joy, thanks for all you did to make us what we are today.

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Angel McDaniel - May 20, 2025 at 12:25 PM



“ If you could chose only one word to describe Joy, it would be "Lovely". Such a kind, fun, beautiful person. She will always be a gift in our hearts and minds!

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**Nancy Remington** - May 20, 2025 at 10:52 AM



“ In 1985 Joy was my training officer at LCSD. She was a exceptional dispatcher and was dedicated to keeping her deputies safe. I think her officer number was 7101 as she started in 1971. She told great stories of what it was like to work at the SD in the 70's. She was a lot of fun to work with

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**Elizabeth Repola** - May 19, 2025 at 09:01 PM

MO

“ Monte lit a candle in memory of Jean Plooster



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**Monte** - May 19, 2025 at 08:58 PM

JS

“ When I started with the Larimer County Sheriff's Office in 2000, Joy had already been a fixture in our Communications Center for many decades. Starting in 1971, she served the citizens of Larimer County under 4 Sheriffs (Watson, Black, Shockley, and Alderden). She saw a lot of change in Larimer County and at LCSO, and she served during some tough times, like the 1976 Big Thompson Flood.

*She always had a smile, but she wouldn't hesitate to tell you how it was going to be either. I loved to listen to her stories of the "early days" of LCSO.*

*As a Dispatcher, you were the first of the First Responders, Joy. Thank you for the decades of service to the citizens of Larimer County and to the Larimer County Sheriff's Office.*

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**John Feyen - Larimer County Sheriff** - May 19, 2025 at 07:24 PM