

## Jo Schneider (1929 – 2020)



Josephine Ann Sundine was born in Moline, Illinois, on January 25, 1929, to parents Florence Annie Rogers and August Sundine. She was their third child, with older siblings, Jeanne and Jack.

Jo, as she preferred to be called, grew up in Moline, periodically assisting with the family newspaper, ***The Moline Daily Dispatch***. She was graduated as valedictorian of Moline Senior High School in January 1947.

She attended Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, graduating with a degree in General Sociology in June 1951. She was president of Pi Beta Phi Social Fraternity; a member of Shi-Ai, a sophomore women's honorary fraternity; and of Alpha Kappa Delta, the National Sociological Honorary Fraternity.

Following graduation, she focused on Sociology-related research for six months. Eventually, she decided not to pursue a master's degree. Instead, she attended Katharine Gibbs Secretarial School, in Chicago, attaining her certificate in June, 1952. She then became secretary to the director of the Center for the Advanced Study of the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford, the year the Center opened. There, she met fellow Louis Schneider, attending on sabbatical from Purdue University. On January 3, 1956, they were married at her family home in Moline.

Jo's career then focused on typing and editing Lou's publications. Through his tenures at Purdue, Dartmouth, the University of Illinois at Urbana, and, finally, The University of Texas at Austin, Jo devoted herself to assisting Lou with his work, creating a lovely and loving home, and raising their only child, Valerie. Her stepchildren, David and Dana Schneider, visited frequently through the years.

Following Lou's passing in 1979, Jo resumed her career, eventually finding her way back to her real love, The University of Texas. Initially, she worked as a Senior Office Assistant in the Measurement and Evaluation Center. In 1987, she received UT's Excellence Award, which she considered to be one of her greatest achievements.

In 1994, she retired as the Editor for all publications produced by the Measurement and Evaluation Center. These publications included technical reports, research bulletins, numerous brochures and grant proposals, and more.

Following her retirement, Jo became an active volunteer with the Austin Memorial and Burial Information Society, now the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Texas. Throughout her years with AMBIS, she served as Board Secretary, newsletter editor,

and all-around ambassador. Often, she spent hours on the phone listening to and comforting distraught callers who had just lost a family member.

In 2016, Jo was presented with the President's Volunteer Service Award in recognition of her service to her community. The President's Volunteer Service Award, established in 2003 by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, thanks and honors Americans who, having given over 4,000 hours of volunteer service in their communities, have inspired others to engage in volunteer service.

She always loved to know what her family and friends were doing, and what was important to them. One of her great joys in her later life was seeing photos of her step-great-grandchildren on Facebook.

Jo was preceded in death by her parents, sister, Jeanne Gorham; brother Jack Sundine; and husband, Louis Schneider. She is survived by her daughter, Valerie; son-in-law, David Williams; grandchildren, Madeline (Ethan) Scott, Amanda Williams, and Joshua Williams. She is also survived by step-children David and Dana Schneider, step-grandchildren Nicole (James) Waldo and Emily Williams, and step-great-grandchildren J.T. Waldo and William Waldo.

Jo was kind and loving to all she met and will be missed greatly by all who knew her. She gave so much to so many. Truly, she was an inspiration and a blessing to all.