



# RESIDENT OF THE MONTH

*Mary Anne Fox*

Mary Anne's family story began with German and Bohemian immigrants who arrived in Wisconsin in the late 19th century, settling as farmers and establishing large families in small west-central communities. These roots remained strong, as many descendants continued farming or operating small businesses there. Her parents, Kenneth Juza and Eleanor Radtke, met before WWII and married when Ken returned from his Pacific service.

Mary Anne treasures her father's wartime letters to her mother, as well as recipes handwritten by a grandmother who grew up on Wisconsin prairieland in the late 1880s.

Born in 1948, Mary Anne grew up with a close family bond, especially with her maternal grandmother who lived with them, allowing Eleanor to work as a bank teller. Ken and his brother ran a business together until he was called back into military service after the Korean Conflict, and from there he pursued a full-time Army career, leading the family to relocate often. A particularly memorable move was to Germany, where they visited Eleanor's ancestral village. These experiences sparked Mary Anne's lifelong interest in language and culture, further enriched by family trips around Europe.

After President Kennedy's assassination, Ken was transferred to Hawaii with the 25th Infantry Division, and the family moved to a former sugar cane town. Here, Mary Anne and her sister attended an all-girls high school in Honolulu, where they made friends with students from Hawaiian, Asian, and military backgrounds. Mary Anne also began her college journey early, taking a freshman English course at the University of Hawaii. She graduated in 1966, the same year the 25th Infantry was deployed to Vietnam.

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Returning to the mainland with her mother and sister, she enrolled at Marquette University to study journalism, after serving as editor of her high school newspaper and yearbook. However, she shifted her focus to European history, which ultimately led her to pursue graduate studies. In 1970, Mary Anne moved to the University of North Carolina (UNC), where her studies took another turn after meeting Jim Fox, a fellow student and Navy veteran. A Florida native, Jim had served as an intelligence officer in the Navy and, like Mary Anne, came from a military family. He was completing a master's in political science and later joined UNC's well-regarded librarianship program. Mary Anne, too, found her calling in library sciences while cataloging books in UNC's library. The two married in 1971 and later moved to Southern Illinois University (SIU) in Carbondale, where they both began careers in library sciences. Mary Anne became a reference librarian and specialized in cataloging literature, history, and Slavic languages, later earning her master's degree in history at SIU. Jim became the Associate Dean for Reference and Collection Development, while Mary Anne played a key role in transitioning the library to computerized cataloging. Together, they were known for their teamwork—Jim oversaw book acquisitions, while Mary Anne ensured they were cataloged.

In 1980, they welcomed their son Stephen, an enthusiastic student and athlete, which kept the family busy with sports events across various fields and weather.

They also traveled during summers, exploring the U.S. and Canada, and made annual trips to visit Jim's family in Florida, often enjoying beach time. Stephen later graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering and joined North American Lighting, where he had interned. He married Stephanie, and they became parents to three children.

After living in Effingham, they moved to Marshall, Illinois, which added to the travel time for family visits. At Stephen's encouragement, and after researching housing options, Mary Anne and Jim relocated to Westminster Village in 2021. Despite the challenges of moving during the pandemic, they appreciated being closer to family and free from home maintenance responsibilities.

Mary Anne's fascination with history extends to genealogy, and she has conducted years of research on her extended family's past. She has also developed a keen interest in Terre Haute's history, inspired by the works of local historian Dorothy Jerse, whose books are part of Westminster's library collection. Though she doesn't consider herself a genealogist, Mary Anne is passionate about continuing this research to preserve family stories for future generations. Other interests include reading, cooking, cataloging knitting patterns online, and taking daily walks around the campus. She and Jim enjoy following the unique journeys of their three grandchildren and staying connected with their family's evolving story.

At Westminster, Mary Anne discovered new hobbies and joined several community activities. She learned to play the ukulele with the community's band, a surprising and rewarding experience, and she and Jim regularly attend local symphony performances and musical events. Mary Anne is involved in various volunteer projects, including the "mat makers," a group that transforms plastic bags into sleeping mats for homeless shelters. She serves on the Memorial Committee and Executive Council and recently joined the Library Committee, where she documents Westminster Village's history by recording over 700 past residents' names. This research has deepened her appreciation of the community's legacy and its residents' diverse careers and life stories.