



In Memoriam to a Great Human Being, Advocate, Executive Director, Friend, Wife and Mother: Mary Ann Jones

I will miss following those wheelchair tracks, Mary Ann's. She was a great lady, with a lot of dignity, serenity and wisdom. I met her in 1993 when I first worked at WCIL--she was in the Development Department and I held her in awe for taking on that difficult task of raising money for a cause, no matter how worthy. I later understood, after getting to know her better, that she was one of the biggest draws for our cause. She was credible, authoritative and friendly. I've heard the story of the Disability Movement said before but hearing her relate it was extra compelling.

Mary Ann was a mentor and friend. She would occasionally share attendants at the quarterly conferences. She would call me to let me know of certain things that she wanted to make sure I was apprised of--she was strategic and made sure that we were united in our approach to an issue we were both working on locally. She knew she had my solid support and vote and often, it would take only our exchanging glances to seal an agreement.

One afternoon after a CFILC meeting, we were both waiting for our rides, she and I had a chance to share and she relived that day of her accident. It was Mary Ann, deeply human, simple and matter of fact. She also shared her joys as a mother and her concerns and worries for her husband's health. Constant through life's challenges was Mary Ann's fortitude, courage, common sense and joy. Mary Ann's laughter would forever live in my memory.

Although it is hard to say good-bye, I am saying mine with utmost resignation, trusting that the God who knows every human heart and every human struggle, has eagerly awaited and prepared for the lovely homecoming of a favorite daughter--Mary Ann Jones, splendid human being!

Lilibeth Navarro
CALIF Founder and Executive Director