

Mary Jo worked as a secondary teacher in the Corpus Christi Independent School District starting in 1966. Receiving a Master’s Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in 1973, she returned to college after retirement and earned a Master’s Degree in History and Political Science from Texas A&M University-Kingsville in 2001.

Afterward, she taught United States history at Del Mar College, has been vice-president and secretary of the Nueces County Historical Society, and was treasurer of the South Texas Historical Association. She has also spoken before the Texas State Historical Association, the East Texas Historical Association, and as part of the Corpus Christi Museum’s Winter Texan Series. In October 2009 she was a featured speaker at the Texas Book Festival in Austin.

She was Woman’s History Breakfast chair for two years in the East Texas Historical Association, was a member of that organization’s board, and was named a Fellow of the Association in October 2016. She has served on six Texas State Historical Association committees and was part of the advisory board of *Lone Star: the Magazine of Texas History*.

Her article, “Silver-Lined Storm: the Impact of the 1919 Hurricane on the Port of Corpus Christi,” won the Keith Guthrie Memorial Award from the Nueces County Historical Association in 2005 and the H. Bailey Carroll Award from the Texas State Historical Association in 2006. Another work, “Reckoning at the River: Unionists and Secessionists on the Nueces, 1862,” was part of *The Seventh Star of the Confederacy*, an anthology that won the A.M. Pate, Jr. Award for excellence in Civil War writing in December 2009.

Her book, *Storm Over the Bay: The People of Corpus Christi and their Port*, published by Texas A&M Press, came out in March 2009 and was a finalist for the Texas Institute of Letters Most Scholarly Book Award in May 2010. Two other works to which she contributed, *Still the Arena of Civil War: Violence and Turmoil in Reconstruction Texas 1865-1874* and *African Americans in Corpus Christi*, were released in the spring of 2012. Today Mary Jo contributes a quarterly column, “Hello, Yesterday!” for the *Corpus Christi Metro Leader*, she has completed a privately commissioned history of a Hill Country ranch, and her newest book, *Bulwark against the Bay: The People of Corpus Christi and their Seawall*, was published in March 2017. She continues to research, in between trips to California to visit her daughter, son-in-law, and seventeen year-old Granddaughter.