



Karen J. Meyer

October 23, 1949 - May 6, 2017

Karen was born Karen Sue Joseph on October 23rd, 1949 in Canton, Ohio to John and Marian Joseph. 6 1/2 years later, little brother Dan joined the family. Karen grew up in Magnolia, Ohio and attended Sandy Valley High School. She showed early promise as a gymnast and was a cheerleader. Karen also enjoyed drama club and performed in her high school's production of Brigadoon. She was friendly and outgoing and was a natural choice for homecoming queen in her senior year at Sandy Valley. Karen went on to attend Bowling Green University where she continued to be involved in cheerleading and graduated with a degree in Education. She taught speech, debate and drama at the high school level and loved coaching gymnastics, leading her teams in several undefeated seasons.

Karen was a loving mother to her daughter, Raquel ("Rocci"), and son John. She was dismayed to find herself a stepmother to 6 more children and grandmother to 3 when she married Mike at the age of 43. Karen quickly reinvented herself as "Grandma KK" and poured a tremendous amount of creative energy and affection into her grandchildren. She particularly enjoyed weekends with John's two children, Gia and Rocco and spent hours with them swimming in the pool, creating craft projects, baking scrumptious treats, and snuggling in bed to read stories.

Before her marriage to Mike, Karen was an avid and accomplished golfer. Mike says he ruined her game with boating trips and extensive travel around the world. When Mike finally retired from his marine consultant position in 2016, Karen and Mike immersed their time and energy into service to others. They taught Sunday school, helped in the church nursery, and were involved in mission projects including Good Samaritan Purse and Florida Baptist Disaster Relief after the hurricanes in Florida and the Bahamas.

Karen gave up her battle with cancer on May 6th at Halifax Hospice in Orange City, Florida. She is survived by her mother, Marian Joseph, her brother Dan Joseph, her husband Mike Meyer, 8 children/step children and 15 grandchildren.

Many have asked what they can do in remembrance of Karen Meyer. Over the last few years, Karen had been a champion for Stetson Baptist Christian School. As an advocate of Christian education, Karen believed in the mission of SBCS. She poured her time,

energy and love into the students and faculty, even before her appointment to the school board. IT IS THEREFORE THE FAMILY'S WISH THAT IN LIEU OF FLOWERS, DONATIONS BE MADE IN KAREN'S NAME TO THE GENERAL FUND OF STETSON BAPTIST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, 1025 W. MINNESOTA AVE. DELAND, FL 32720.

Comments



“ Karen and I grew up on the same street in Magnolia, OH. We went through 12 years of school together. Even though we had different interests in high school, we remained friends. On the night of our 25th class reunion, Karen announced that she and Mike would be married the next day. We did all in our power to try to convince her to get married at the reunion. Wisely, I think, she decided to wait! Sadly, Karen left us on Saturday, May 6th, 2017, on the final evening of celebrating our 50th class reunion. Tears filled the room as we realized that our dear friend lost her battle against pancreatic cancer. My thoughts and prayers go out to Karen's family during this sad time. My heart breaks for Toots, Karen's mom, who opened her home time and again to a group of silly girls who came often to play with her beautiful daughter. I am grateful to have known this beautiful woman.
Dr. Sharon Moore Burns

Sharon Burns - May 23, 2017 at 11:05 PM



“ We are so sorry for your loss. Karen was such a nice person and will be missed. Our prayers are with your family.

Judy & Rick Armstrong - May 12, 2017 at 08:18 AM



“ Lennart and Eva Arvidsson purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Karen J. Meyer.



Lennart and Eva Arvidsson - May 11, 2017 at 12:04 PM



“ I remember the first time I met Karen, we were seatmates on a Southwest Airlines flight from Orlando to Norfolk, Va. I was fairly new to Volvo Penta and those 2 hours sitting next to Karen and talking about the people and the culture of Volvo made for a very enjoyable flight and several good laughs. Karen had a special way of making a perfect stranger feel like an old friend, and I always appreciated that. She was a very warm and caring person, and Mike, her family, and all of us that had the pleasure of getting to know her and become a part of her life, no matter how big or how small were among a very lucky group of people that will always remember her as the amazing Lady that she was. Thank you and rest easy Karen, you will be missed. Mike my deepest sympathy on your loss. I hope you find comfort in the many wonderful memories and the beautiful family that you and Karen created and shared over the years. I look forward to seeing you soon.



Mike Herny - May 10, 2017 at 07:14 PM



“ One of my favorite memories of Karen was when, she and Mike, came to visit my wife and I in Ellijay, Georgia. We had a great time just hanging around ,eating great food and drinking lots of wine. Also, we made a road trip to Yona Mountain where Mike owned property a while back! That land is now home to Yona Mountain Winery! Karen remarked about what a great real estate visionary Mike was. We also ,that day went to Helen and walked through the Bavarian replica Village. Was inspiring to see how much they enjoyed each others company, and heard stories or there younger years cruising the Caribbean!! Karen was a very special lady to us and will be greatly missed!!

Thomas Eckel - May 10, 2017 at 09:22 AM



“ Joseph and Meyer families,

We would like to send you our deepest sympathy on the loss of a beautiful person! Karen was my gym teacher at Canton South HS, and of course a fb friend! Karen always had a smile on her face, had such a positive attitude! She was that kind of person that you wanted to be! For Karen, it came naturally! May Our Lord hold you in His arms to comfort you! May all the memories that Karen leaves with you dry your tears! Karen's New Life will shine down on all if us! Rest in Peace, Karen! You will be missed! Love you!



Mary and Scot Bowman - May 09, 2017 at 08:16 PM



“ We're so happy we had the chance to meet Karen when she accompanied Mike on a business trip to Seattle. They came to lunch at our home. She was a sparkling light. We became instant friends. We're shocked and very saddened. Martha and Jeff

Martha - May 09, 2017 at 07:19 PM



“ Softly in the evening, you heard a gentle call
You took the hand God offered you
And quietly left us all.
Rest in peace Karen our dear Sorority Sister - we will miss you so very much.

I met Karen through the ESA Deland Sorority in 2012 not long after we settled in Deland after our relocation from the UK. In the relatively short time I have known Karen, I have many happy memories with her and will always remember her as a beautiful, (inside and out) humanitarian with a vibrancy for life which needed to be filled with fun, compassion and a quest to help whoever, wherever, there was a need. She was so very kind and supportive to me during some difficult times in the last year and in many ways was more than an inspiration to me to face some demons, pick myself up and carry on. We both had our mountains to climb, sadly hers was so very much more difficult than mine. The world has lost one very special lady!

Our thoughts and prayers are with you Mike and the family - we will be with you on Friday to say our final farewell to Karen - until we meet again.

Pauline and John Lightfoot
New Smyrna Beach Fl

Pauline Lightfoot - May 09, 2017 at 06:42 PM



“ Mike,
So sorry for your loss. Although Karen was not healed in this life , she will be healed now. Very cool to see what you all have been involved in, and the lives you both have and will continue to impact. I look forward to spending time with you soon.
Love from all the Pillsbury's.
Franklin

Franklin Pillsbury - May 09, 2017 at 02:17 PM



“ My sympathy to the Meyer family from an old friend.Watched Neil Armstrong walk on the moon from her living room floor with John and Toots. God has her now and she is in pain no more.

buck - May 09, 2017 at 12:00 PM