



Karen I. Malone

November 11, 1945 - January 17, 2020

Karen Ilene (Strahl) Malone, age 74, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, January 17, 2020. She was born on November 11, 1945 to James "Howard" and Florence Strahl in Randall, MN. The family later moved to Sheboygan, WI.

After graduating from Sheboygan South High School, she began her career working in sales & marketing. For many years, Karen worked at The Waupaca Foundry and Tran Star in Waupaca, where she formed many close friendships that she treasured until her passing. Most recently, she worked at the Party City and Fleet Farm corporate offices in Appleton, WI before she retired. Not surprisingly, with every professional move she ever made, lifelong friends were added along the way. Her welcoming, fully accepting approach to life pulled all close to her. Her enormous heart and compassion were special and drew everyone she met in.

In her younger years she loved raising and riding horses. As her family grew, she focused on her kids. She proudly cheered on her sons, supporting them throughout their teenage years. She was their wrestling team's biggest fan rooting for her boys and the entire team. There wasn't a meet that she didn't attend. She was loved by any friend of her children. To their friends who knew her, they simply and fondly referred to her as "Mom!" She was so proud of her children growing up, supporting them with everything they encountered in life. Steadfastly there, ready to listen, and always with a hug.

Then, she became a Grandma, twice! She just absolutely adored her newest role. At very early ages, both of her Grandsons fell in love with playing hockey, and she fell in love with watching them. She was happiest at the ice rink. Countless hours spent supporting them and cheering them on, learning the rules of a new sport that she hadn't known before. Her favorite times were with family, cooking for the family get-togethers and spending those precious days playing games in the back yard creating smiles, laughs, and many memories. Throughout her life she was blessed with the ability to transform emotion into words. Whether through poetry, special cards, or holiday greetings, true to herself, she had a unique way to connect with people. Though often therapeutic for her, she brought

comfort to those dealing with difficult times, loss, or sadness. To honor special moments in life, her words brought joy and happiness.

A very special family friend described her best; "I've not known anyone with the capacity to care and love more than her. Given all that she faced, much more than most, she was able to look outside all of that and focus on those around her."

For those here on earth, we have cherished our time with Karen, she was admired, loved, and will be forever missed. It's time now for us to share her with her mom, her dad, and beloved Joel, and Kaelynn in Heaven.

She was preceded in death by her firstborn, Joel, and her last child, Kaelynn. Father, James Howard Strahl and her mother, Florence Strahl, half sisters, Adeline Hagar, Marie Frank, Elaine Lynch, Clara Hunter, Irene Strahl, and half brothers, Harold Strahl, Howard Strahl, Harris Refsland and Dale Refsland.

She is survived by her son, Daniel Mantz (Waupaca), daughter, Dena Mantz (fiancé Andrew Lang), (Oshkosh), stepson, Ryan Reisman (Adam), (Las Vegas, NV), stepdaughter, Erin Malone (Waupaca), grandsons, Ryan Mantz and Jake Mantz (Oshkosh), sister, Virginia Griego (Roy, UT), sister, Lori Gilbertson (Sheboygan), brother Glen Strahl (Moreno Valley, CA), and half sister, Florence Bellamy, (Little Falls, MN). She is further survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

A visitation will be held on Saturday, February 8 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Holly Funeral Home in Waupaca.

Events

FEB **Memorial Visitation** 03:00PM - 06:00PM

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A. J. Holly & Sons (Waupaca)

526 S. Main St P.O. Box 254, Waupaca, WI, US, 54981

Comments



“ Aunt Karen was beautiful kind and loving person..
She's going to be missed on earth..
But our Angels are there to welcome her into Heaven..



Mary Merritt - February 08 at 02:22 PM



“ Kim, Kari, and Justin Strahl, Ron & Betty purchased the Guiding Light Bouquet for the family of Karen I. Malone.



Kim, Kari, and Justin Strahl, Ron & Betty - February 05 at 03:27 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Karen I. Malone.



February 05 at 02:45 PM



“ Goodbye my beautiful Aunt Karen... So incredibly hard to believe your gone from our lives, as you were such a big part of my family. Thanks for all the beautiful memories!! Even though we were separated by a thousand miles, you made them melt away and feel that you were near with your encouraging and thoughtful words.

We'll never forget you or your heart of gold!! I know you're reunited now in the loving arms of Kaelynn and Joel, at last and forever.. and so many more you've been missing for so long. Your love for your children is everlasting and timeless.. and you were an inspiration to me~

You've been the only one I could share being a forever faithful MN Viking fan with... so I'll cheer a little louder and count on a little divine intervention!!! (wink, wink)

To the moon and back... remember? Mary Griego

Mary Goff - February 05 at 02:37 PM



“ Mary, Andrea, Justin, Brandi & family purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Karen I. Malone.



Mary, Andrea, Justin, Brandi & family - February 05 at 01:44 PM



“ Francis Ellingsworth purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Karen I. Malone.



Francis Ellingsworth - February 05 at 11:58 AM



“ Karen will be deeply missed. I spent most of my time of my teenage years in her home as Kaelynn was my very best friend. Karen always had words of advice for me no matter the situation. She truly helped me survive some hard times. We spent many years traveling to watch wrestling matches and tournaments. I am so thankful to have seen Karen in person to talk recently. She will be loved and remain in my heart forever.



“ Karen's family.....
I was saddened to learn Karen has died. We remained good friends for about "57" years. Many of our fond memories go back to the Gmach's restaurant days. Others share your sorrow.

Sending love your way,
Karla Kometer

Karla Kometer - February 03 at 10:05 PM



“ Sympathy to all of Karen's family and friends. I graduated from high school with her and we have kept in touch throughout those many years after, The journey our lives take is an amazing one, Karen's certainly was, but also too short. So it is and so it goes.

Sharo Ystesund Quicker - - January 31 at 10:08 AM



“ My Aunt Karen loved her family so much. She came and cheered her great-niece and great-nephew, my kids, when they were competing in her area, and she was one of my mom's rocks, especially in these last few months. We will miss her caring spirit and her poetic soul.



Katie Anderson - January 30 at 08:39 PM



“ All our Love, Virginia, Sherry, Mary and Vicki purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Karen I. Malone.



All our Love, Virginia, Sherry, Mary and Vicki - January 28 at 12:16 PM



“ Valerie Fay lit a candle in memory of Karen I. Malone



Valerie Fay - January 26 at 11:13 AM



“ I'm praying for your family still on this side Karen. Praying they'll feel your love reaching back to tell them you are well... I feel so selfish because I'm so sad to hear you crossed... but I feel grateful too believing in that joyful reunion you are having. I hope your family will be comforted to know how many of us feel sad but grateful to and for you. Love Elissa.



ELISSA SMITH - January 25 at 02:43 PM



“ Sheri Schabo lit a candle in memory of Karen I. Malone



Sheri Schabo - January 24 at 09:03 AM



“ So sorry for your Loss. Karen has been my friend for the last 5 years sharing our grief through “Silent grief Support group” I feel absolutely devastated as she was a mentor for me after losing her daughter and then her Son and wish we could have met in real life.

She was a wonderful friend and will be dearly missed by me.....

Elsabe Jastrzebski - January 23 at 05:05 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Karen I. Malone.



January 23 at 06:21 AM