



Karen Kay Kuntz

May 4, 1963 - May 20, 2024

Karen Kay Kuntz, affectionately known by her loved ones as KK, passed away peacefully with her family by her side on Monday, May 20, 2024, at Elsberry Healthcare Center.

She was born on May 4, 1963, at the Lincoln County Hospital in Troy, Missouri. She gave her parents, Alfred and Dorothy Kuntz, a challenging first year; as she was born a “preemie”, three months early. She had the honor to initiate the first isolate at the hospital, the newly acquired equipment had to be unboxed and plugged in for her arrival.

Karen attended Silex R-1 Schools for her entire elementary and secondary education career and was class Valedictorian. She went on to Northeast Missouri State University (now known as Truman State university) and earned her Bachelor of Science in Accounting. Karen was fortunate to earn her living doing taxes for three corporations – Contel Telephone Company for 6 years, AT&T for 6 years, Monsanto Company for 12 years, and then back to AT&T for 6 years to finish her career. She was a CPA and learned her love for doing taxes from her mom. She was a longtime member of Troy Chapter #405 Order of Eastern Star, serving many years as secretary for Silex Chapter #80 before it merged. She was also the secretary for Oak Grove Cemetery for the past several years.

Karen is survived by her brothers, Eddie (Marian) Kuntz of Eolia and JB (Brenda) Kuntz of Eolia. She is also survived by two nephews and a niece, Aaron (Christy) Kuntz of Eolia, Jamie (Grant) Gollaher of Frankford, and Rob (Jacqueline) Kuntz of Kirksville, and two great-nephews and three great-nieces, Scott Kuntz, Tyler Kuntz, Kaitlyn Kuntz, Rileigh Kuntz, all of Eolia, and Carly Gollaher of Frankford.

Karen enjoyed traveling to locations across the United States including San Francisco, Wisconsin, Yellowstone, and the International Rose Garden in Portland, Oregon. Another favorite was spending a week “cruising” the Hawaiian Islands. In addition, through her work she spent many a week in Atlanta, Georgia and San Antonio, Texas and was fortunate to even get to travel to Italy. However, by far, her favorite place to be was at home on the farm.

Karen was preceded in death by her parents, her maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bufford and her paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. John A. Kuntz.

Graveside services were held at Oak Grove Cemetery on Saturday, May 25, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. Pallbearers were family members Aaron, Rob, Scott, Tyler, Eddie, and JB Kuntz. Bibb-Veach Funeral Homes and Crematory handled the arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Oak Grove Cemetery in care of Bibb-Veach Funeral Home.

Cemetery Details

Oak Grove Cemetery

Previous Events

Graveside Services

MAY 25. 2:00 PM (AKT)

Oak Grove Cemetery
Hwy H
Bowling Green, MO 63334

Tribute Wall

RF

“ Robert Kuntz and Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Karen Kay Kuntz.



Robert Kuntz and Family - May 24, 2024 at 12:17 PM

AC

“ so sorry to hear of Karen's passing. Enjoyed visiting her on facebook.

Alice Coose - May 23, 2024 at 07:31 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karen Kay Kuntz.



May 23, 2024 at 11:10 AM

SF

“ Sharon, Jeff, Nikki, Elise and Families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karen Kay Kuntz.

Sharon, Jeff, Nikki, Elise and Families - May 23, 2024 at 11:10 AM

BW

“ *I am so grateful for all that Karen did on behalf of Oak Grove Cemetery. I'm so very sorry for her loss at too young of an age. Keeping her family in prayer.*

Barbee Wyble Wear - May 23, 2024 at 10:34 AM



“ *Donna Korte Wiss lit a candle in memory of Karen Kay Kuntz*



Donna Korte Wiss - May 23, 2024 at 07:00 AM

RE

“ I moved into Silex when I was 13, an 'outsider' in a small community. I met Karen the first time in Band. She immediately came up to me and said she would help me get around and learn the routine in finding the right classes. I learned quickly nobody could be a stranger for long when Karen was around. She became my best friend. We shared a love of band, reading books, and loving kittens. She always was kind to me. When I would struggle in Math she became my tutor, trying to explain to my awkward brain how to get to the right answers. She never treated me as the 'wierd, awkward, bashful nerd' I know I was. She was not freaked out by how shy or quiet I was around others. She was one of the few people I could be truly comfortable around. (When Karen was your friend, you had a fierce Warrior on your side). Summertime we would write letters to one another and keep tabs on what each was doing. (Karen kept me sane in high school, she was my constant rock in that crazy world.) After Graduation we were pulled in different directions for a bit, but always managed to keep in touch with letters and occasionally seeing one another in festivities around Silex. When I got married I knew I wanted her to be one of my bridesmaids, (She didn't really want to be one but she did as a favor to me). She was a part of helping me survive High School, and helped me to be the person I had become. Life got busy as roles were changing, we always tried to stay in touch from time to time. She checked in as my kids grew up, being a cheerleader and telling me things to make me laugh. She always referred to my dad, Ivan, as Ivanho.. from a book. It even made Dad laugh. He had read the book also. I have memory of going together to St. Charles arena watching a Christian Lady comedian together - Chonda Pierce. We sat in the vehicle chatting away about family and the past, while we waited for traffic to die down. We didn't see each other a lot as my kids grew up. At times life just got in the way. (My parents took time as they became ill and ultimately died 10 years apart, both requiring intensive care to remain in their home.) Periodically we would talk and catch up, but

too much time passes quickly. We actually seem to grow closer when she finally had to live in the Nursing Home. By then I had two of my grown Children working there.

I enjoyed our visits catching up on each other's life. I know it was not always easy for her there but she did try to make the best of things that she was dealt with.

My family would laugh at me when I said I was 'going to visit for just a bit' with Karen. Time always flew too fast visiting and I was forever 'getting her in trouble' getting her to dinner late.

She was my daughter's biggest cheerleader at work, cheering her onto something more, LPN school. She was always checking in on her tough classes and grades. I wish she could see her graduate the end of June, She would be so thrilled for her.

When I got diagnosed with breast Cancer this last fall, she became one of my biggest cheerleaders again. When she found out I needed a lift chair she wanted me to borrow hers, but I told I had applied to the Cancer Society to borrow one they offered. When the news came it fell through, as I was told I lived too far from St. Louis to qualify. She then immediately insisted again I use hers, after much consideration I consented. Wow! Did I really owe her for that! I had no real idea how much that chair would be such a comfort in my healing phase. I lived in that chair for about 4 weeks. That is where i slept and passed my time healing. I would not have done well without it. I thank God for having such a good, thoughtful friend! She celebrated my achievements! When I recently became a grandma-Nana for the first time she was thrilled to hear me speak about him.

When i found out she was in the ICU last week I stopped by to check in on her. She looked the best I had seen her look in some time. Her color was good and her mind was clear. It did my heart good to see her looking so well. (That is how I want to remember her.)

On my way home from Fulton Saturday, after spending the day with my new grandbaby, She called me to let me know she was back at the nursing home. I was glad to hear from her, but the call seemed unusual. I think somehow Karen knew her time left would be short, she wanted this moment to speak to me while her mind was still

clear. Looking back, she gave a gift once again of her time and her love. It felt like she knew she was telling me goodbye. I will miss you Karen, you were an awesome friend to me! I wish you could have stayed but your body was weary and tired. Thank you dear friend! I will never forget you!

Rebecca (Becky Shepherd) Edwards - May 23, 2024 at 12:22 AM

PH

“ *Karen was a classmate of mine prayers to all*



pastor kenny haddock - May 22, 2024 at 08:11 PM