



Karen A. White

JUL 11, 1956 - FEB 21, 2017



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Karen A. White

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Karen A. White, 60, of North Syracuse, passed away peacefully on Tuesday at the Francis House. She was born in Syracuse, grew up in Camillus, and graduated from Bishop Ludden High School. After high school she served active duty with the U.S. Army. Karen attended OCC and was a determined student prepared to earn a college degree while working her full-time job. She pursued a career in the food and catering industry and earned her degree in record time. Karen's ability to learn quickly, extensive experience in the industry and her passion "to feed the world" resulted in the creation of Julie's Place, home of Karen's Catering in downtown Syracuse. Since 1992, Karen has earned an impeccable reputation for offering quality service, creative menus and elegant dining, drawing rave reviews from dining enthusiasts all across the U.S.

Her passion for wonderful food and exceptional customer service brought joy and happiness to many. Karen was tireless in her commitment to those she served either in their homes or in her restaurant. Karen will be deeply missed by all who knew her and worked with her.

She was predeceased by her niece, Kelsey Lunden in 2007, and her father William E. White, Jr. in 2013.

Karen is survived by her mother, Helen (Menard) White; her longtime companion, Anthony C. Sgroi; her brother, William White of Oswego and his daughters, Addie and Mackenzie; several aunts, uncles and many close friends.

A Funeral Mass in celebration of Karen's life will be held at 11:00 AM on Monday, February 27, 2017 in Holy Cross Church, DeWitt. Private burial will be in the Onondaga County Veterans Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Francis House, 108 Michael's Ave., Syracuse, NY 13208.



Events


Karen A. White

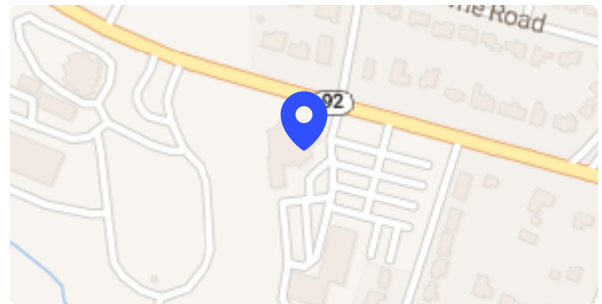
JUL 11, 1956 - FEB 21, 2017

Funeral Mass

 **Monday**, February 27, 2017

 11:00 AM ET

 **Holy Cross Church**
4112 E. Genesee St., Syracuse NY 13214





Tribute Wall

Karen A. White

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CO

Connie posted:

Karen, I've had this written in my head for a week now but just couldn't get through putting it to print. I hope you are reading this in peace. It was my privilege and honor to have been your friend for the past 33 years. Everything I learned about good food, good drink and exceptional customer service, I learned from you. Your work ethic was second to none. It made me tired when I worked for you and it still makes me tired just thinking about it all these years later! I will cherish the memories of our dinners out with Michele, catching up, laughing at old stories, and you ordering nearly everything on the menu so we could sample it all. Always a selfless friend, you would never let the conversation linger too long on Karen, no matter how hard we tried to make that happen. It makes me laugh when I remember how you used to poke around my plate with your fork, tasting my food and giving my meal the Karen "once-over". Thank you for all the wonderful meals you provided to me, Danny and our families. Whether we were celebrating or grieving, you were always there with food and drink to add to the celebration or soothe our souls. In the days to come, every time I take a sip or a bite of something delicious, I will smile knowing that you are around me and most likely had something to do with it. Now my friend, take your much needed rest. Eat, drink, play the piano and read some good books. I know one day we will have dinner together again, but until then, I will miss you deeply and for a long, long time. Connie

March 2 at 9:33 AM

LB

Liz Brown posted:

I work in a Dr.'s office that has been using Karen's catering for years, I often called and spoke w/ Karen, she's always delightful, chipper & helpful when placing orders. Always accommodating in every regard. A number of years later I got married & she offered to make a dinner, deliver the dinner at what was a VERY fair price just as a small post wedding celebration from our wedding. Me & my co-workers here in the office will miss Karen very much. Thank you for all you have done Karen. We all were very saddened to hear of her passing. Rest in Peace Karen!!! Liz

March 1 at 8:39 AM

CN

Cathy Nock posted:

Dear Helen, Billy and family, We were blessed to be your next-door neighbors for many years, and my sisters and I loved spending time with Karen. Even back then, I remember her as being kind, funny and extremely bright - traits she continued to show her entire life. Please know you are all in our prayers, and we wish you comfort and many happy memories. Karen is now seated at the celestial table, and surely she has prepared an amazing menu and created special recipes in preparation for her arrival. Love, Cathy and family

February 27 at 3:18 PM



Tribute Wall

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JS

Jan Smith posted:

Karen White was one of the first people that I met in Syracuse...so warm and welcoming then, in 2012 and always, after. Although her schedule must have hectic, she made time to sit at our table for a brief chat. An amazing business woman who combined compassion, caring and generosity of spirit in her life's work. You were an institution, Girlfriend, whether you knew it or not!

February 27 at 10:14 AM



Anonymous sent a Pretty Please to the White family.



February 26 at 5:19 PM

SQ

Sheila Quinell posted:

Helen, Bill, and family, Mom and I were so very sorry to hear about Karen's passing! Over the years Karen and I had the chance to reconnect..she would shop at my friends store where I worked, or we would eat at Julie's, and later when mom would move in where Bill and Helen lived. We talked about past memories of going camping or being at one another's houses when our parents got together. I would kid Karen that I was going to dig up a picture of the two of us in knickers or of Billy making faces out of the back of our old car. Of course we would talk about current lives as well..work and family mostly. I grew to admire Karen for her work ethic, her endless energy, and her positive nature. I watched how she managed her business, took care of her parents, and always had a smile on her face. I always wondered how she did it all and never looked tired. She was welcoming to all who knew her and made you feel special. I can't believe Syracuse has lost such a good soul. Just a week ago I ran into someone who told me they thought Karen was sick and I was concerned. I wish I had known sooner. May God hold his hand out for her as she continues on her next journey and may the wonderful words from others warm and heal your hearts. You will be missed Karen..God Speed! All our love...Sheila Smith QuinellPeggy Smith Schnurr

February 26 at 4:43 PM

TG

Tim George lit a candle in honor of Karen .

It was with great sadness to hear of Karen's passing. She was a special, wonderful person and it also happens that she ran the best restaurant and catering service in all of Syracuse. She always took care of my dad, my Uncle Ed Munnet and our families. God bless; we love and miss you! Tim George



February 26 at 4:07 PM



Tribute Wall

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RS

Roseann Smith lit a candle in honor of Karen .



February 26 at 3:33 PM

RS

Roseann Smith posted:

I am so sad to hear of Karen's passing. What a sweet, kind, loving woman. She always made you feel so special. I am glad that I had the honor of knowing her. God bless her family, Nini, and the staff at Julies. Roseann Smith

February 26 at 3:33 PM

SP

Susann Panek posted:

I am deeply saddened to hear of Karen's passing. I have spent many wonderful times for dinner and lunch celebrations with family and friends. God bless Karen. Nini I am so very sorry for your loss. Susann Panek

February 26 at 2:42 PM

JE

Jennifer posted:

Karen was a wonderful woman and she will be truly missed by all. I feel blessed to have known her the few short years that I did and our prayers are with her family and friends at this difficult time. Karen was quick with a smile and made everyone she came into contact with feel like they were her priority, whether it was a quick chat or she was feeding you. We all have one more Angel on our side.

February 26 at 2:42 PM

SM

Sandra Martin posted:

Our deepest sympathy to all who loved Karen, as we have for so many years. We are deeply saddened by her passing. Sandy Martin and Loren Pratt

February 26 at 12:38 PM



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Janet And Jack Mallan posted:

We have known Karen since she first started out in the food service business. She was always the person we called to cater for special occasions for our family events. Everything she did was first class. We looked for her whenever we went to Julie's Place. There she was with her happy greeting and smile on her face. We will miss her. Janet and Jack Mallan

February 26 at 12:20 PM



Louis Bonavita Jr, Md posted:

My wife and I have known Karen for the past 25 years as a loving, dedicated, kind human being who brought joy to all she met. She has catered all the special times of our lives from baptisms to Christmas parties with the up most attention to detail and quality. We have also spent the last 20+ years celebrating New Year's with Karen, Albert and all our friends at Julies Place. She was a consummate professional whose smile could light up a room. Karen, you have touched so many lives in CNY. It has been our pleasure to know you. God's speed to your family. You will be missed.....Dr and Mrs. Louis Bonavita, Jr.

February 25 at 5:51 PM



Elia Desruisseaux posted:

My deepest condolences to Karen's family and friends. Karen lived next door through my early childhood and I have wonderful, warm and lasting memories of her talents, wit and charm. She was an important part of my childhood and I hold her memory very dear. I was fortunate to have known her.

February 25 at 12:43 PM



Bill Bailey sent a Basket of Memories to the White family.



February 25 at 7:47 AM



Phil & Jean Ruffini posted:

Take wing Dear Classmate and friend, your presence in this world will be missed by all who had the fortune to have met and known you. May God Bless Your Soul. R.I.P.

February 25 at 7:36 AM



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RT

Rob Tortorella posted:

Karen always made my mom and dad feel special during their times at Julie's. She was the one and only caterer our family called upon and at each occasion the food and service was always at the highest level. When my mom was diagnosed with her illness, Karen went above and beyond the call of duty to serve my parents food at their home. Mom and Dad loved Karen. When my mom passed last spring Karen again provided comfort to our family by her presence during the services and taking charge of the reception at our home. I will always remember my private conversations with Karen during my moms illness. Karen's strength and courage were exemplified by her daily actions and sevice to others. Never once, did she let the burden of her illness weigh heavy on those she served. A woman for the Ages.

February 24 at 8:39 PM

JT

Jerry Tracey posted:

Karen was a amazing person and a true friend. We started using Karen 25 years ago for our xmas party she was the most dedicated and loving person grew up with our children from graduations to wedding and baptism of our grand children. I will truly miss her and I know God will hold her in his hand. Love you Debbie and Jerry Tracey, Jennifer and Chrissy

February 24 at 1:36 PM

EP

Eve Pollock posted:

Our hearts are saddened by the news of Karen's passing. While we no longer live in Syracuse, we have many fond memories of our evenings at Julie's. Our sympathy to the family and friends of Karen. She was a remarkable woman.Eve and Jerry Pollock

February 24 at 12:07 PM

PA

Patrick W Aregano posted:

Sending "Heart Felt Sympathy" to all of Karen`s family, friends, customers, and the community who`s lives Karen has touched, there are no words in the English vocabulary to describe Karen`s demeanor, personality, charm, or her wit, man when "God" made her he broke the mold, there will never be another, her love of the business, customer service skills, and love for animals is unteachable, may she "Rest In Peace"

February 24 at 3:58 AM



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Anonymous sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the White family.



February 24 at 2:34 AM



Sharon Ianzito posted:

Karen was part of many of our important celebrations where it was @ Julie's place or with Karen's catering to our home: births, christening, confirmations, graduations, 50th birthdays.... we will be lost without her!

February 23 at 3:06 PM



Alison Miller sent a Strength & Solace Spray to the White family.



February 23 at 1:08 PM



Joan Fineberg posted:

I first met Karen in the 80s when she catered BCBS committee & exec staff meetings. Before long she was catering parts of our Thanksgiving dinners which extended right into the 2000's system. She catered our private parties at home, our special celebrations, anything that required her help & expertise...I considered Karen the ultimate reliable professional and a friend throughout the years. Her last catered affair for me occurred when she provided everything for Shiva upon my husband's passing. Rest in peace dear Karen, you will be missed. Joan Fineberg

February 23 at 12:32 PM



Katie Oaster posted:

Saddened to hear of Karen's passing. We first met when she was just a teen, my sister-in-law's niece and the one who took my special cocker spaniel Gigi to love for many years. Prayers to all the family and her many friends

February 23 at 11:36 AM



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MT

Museum Of Science & Technology posted:

Over many years Karen White has been a friend, supporter and partner of the Museum of Science & Technology. From providing delicious food for our own staff holiday parties, to donating items for fundraising events that benefit the museum, Karen always provided the amazing staff and exceptional service that she was known for. Knowing that we could reach out to Karen at any time, and knowing that she would always be there to support us has been an invaluable asset to the museum. We will miss her dearly and look forward to honoring her memory with our continued relationship with Karen's Catering and Julie's Place.-MOST

February 23 at 10:07 AM

MH

Mark Hollingshead February 25 at 1:34 AM

For 16 years I solicited Karen to utilize the services I provided. Every time she gave me the opportunity to meet with her she was always so kind and genuine. I never had the opportunity to provide that service to her, but every time I called her she would always say Mark, give me a call next week and I would love to hear what you have to say, she was never rude, she was always kind and sweet. What really struck me about Karen was that she always told me that she appreciated my effort. My thoughts and prayers are with her family, friends and business partners. I truly appreciate the professionalism that she showed me every time we met. Mark Hollingshead

RB

Robert Broderick February 24 at 4:00 AM

We were so sorry to hear of Karen's passing. She was so kind, generous and supportive during our son's illness and passing. Our thoughts are with Karen's family and friends. The Broderick Family

KE

Katherine Elizabeth posted:

I worked on and off for Karen for about a decade. She had a big influence on my career development. I will always appreciate what she gave to me. Nini, Andrea, restaurant family and White family, please accept my condolences. Karen will truly be missed...

February 23 at 8:35 AM



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SV

Sam Vavonese posted:

Like everyone, I am deeply saddened to learn of Karen's passing. She made a gathering of my friends at the ballpark, including her and others from Julie's, a memorable event with her gracious catering services. As a regular patron of Julie's, she always greeted me with a most pleasant and amiable manner, which was clearly sincere. I will miss her, and I send my deepest condolences to her family and all her friends and colleagues at Julie's. Sam Vavonese, Hollywood, Florida

February 23 at 7:36 AM

NG

Norman Guinta posted:

We are so sorry to hear about Karen's passing. Please accept our heartfelt sympathy. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers at this time of sadness. Norman Guinta / Peter A. Guinta & Son Produce.

February 23 at 7:08 AM

SH

Sister Helen Hart posted:

It has taken me many hours trying to decide what to put down in this memory space. There are not enough words in the English language to describe Karen. I have known her for over 28 years and she was an incredible person. Her kindness and generosity are un-surpassed and her fine dining can not be matched. I personally have been blessed by both of these qualities. Three years ago, she catered my 50th Anniversary as a Sister of St. Joseph---- my family and friends are still talking about it. Like everyone who was a part of Karen's life she took a part of my heart in her passing. However, like her, she left a part of her heart that will stay with me till we meet again. If we have learned nothing in life hopefully Karen was that beacon who lights the way. My heartfelt sympathy goes out to all who loved her so. Sister Helen Hart CSJ

February 23 at 5:52 AM

TS

The Scullins posted:

An accomplished woman...a caring person...always available to help others...she will be missed...God bless

February 23 at 5:13 AM



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FP

Florence Pikulinski posted:

Did you ever meet someone just a couple of times that left a lasting impression on you, well Karen was definitely one of those people. From the moment my husband and I met with her to go over a menu for my sons graduation party 6 years we liked her right on with her friendly and bubbly personality. She made sure everything went well from the beginning to the end with showing up herself and sending over the best servers. I will never forget you Karen and my heart goes out to her family and friends.

February 23 at 4:29 AM

RG

Rita Grimaldi posted:

Karen always gracious, talented and hard working. I will miss seeing you and miss our conversations about the business. Rest in peace dear Karen.

February 23 at 4:20 AM

CZ

Chuck Zimmerman posted:

I was deeply saddened to hear of Karen's passing. As a business person she was terrific to work with. Always pleasant and with a smile even when not feeling her best. She will be missed by everyone. Chuck Zimmerman

February 23 at 4:06 AM

KG

Kimberly And Nik Goudy sent a virtual gift in honor of Karen .

When entering this family for the first time with karen at our side she made my son and I feel a part of it all and made us feel very comfortable in a very uncomfortable situation. She included my shy son in personal conversations and included us as we were just as important as everyone in there family. I am so grateful for this and for having the pleasure to have known such a genuine caring lady . May you fly with the best of angels . You will be truly missed and never forgotten .



February 23 at 4:04 AM



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JW

Joanne Crisella Wilson posted:

My sincere sympathy to Karen's family. She was an exceptional hostess and always made it a point to greet the customers at Julie's with a smile and appreciation of their patronage. She will be missed by al....Joanne Crisella Wilson

February 23 at 2:34 AM

BB

Bill Bush posted:

Karen was a fantastic example of what is best in people. Her obvious love/passion for her work, her ability to establish a business family, caring for her customers as close friends and her love of life. She truly was the very, very best!!Hope I have the privilege of making it to her new restaurant some day. You know she is already setting it up!!!God Bless Karen and her family

February 23 at 2:04 AM

DY

Danny Young posted:

No matter how busy she was or what was going on in her world, Karen always made time for conversation and on those occasions it was I who walked away feeling like the most important person in the room. How many friends can you say that about?Save us a table dear girl!Danny Young

February 23 at 1:53 AM

DW

Daniel Salamone, Jr. (Martin Scott Wines) sent a Country Basket Blooms to the White family.



February 22 at 6:24 PM

CH

Christinecadaret posted:

So sorry to learn of Karen's passing. My deepest sympathy to her family, Anthony Sgroi and all who loved and lost a dear friend.Rest In Peace Karen ❤️Christy Cua Cadaret

February 22 at 5:34 PM



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WC

Wendy Paulsen-Carey posted:

Very sad to hear the news of Karen's passing. She was an exceptionally inspiring business woman, and big hearted. She will be missed ... and remembered with much fondness. One of a kind!Wendy Paulsen

February 22 at 4:45 PM

MH

Mary Ann Juliano-Harris lit a candle in honor of Karen .

I had the pleasure working with Karen in the late 1980's. She was a beautiful, kind and professional woman. My sincere condolences to Karen's family. RIP pretty lady.

February 22 at 3:58 PM



MK

Michael W Kofkee lit a candle in honor of Karen .

What a Wonderful Amazing Women, as I Use too be a Security Guard at the Regency Towers Second -Shift And She Always Wanted too Make Sure that I Had Something too Eat and I Helped her Out When Ever she Had a Issue With The Restaurant, and Always took the Time To Stop bye And Say Hi too Me. The City of Syracuse Will Miss this Iconic Business Women and a Person that You Will Never Forget. The Angel's Above Have Answered Your Calling And God --Bless you. In the Light of Being In Heaven. RIP.From,Michael W Kofkee

February 22 at 3:34 PM



JB

Judy Bell posted:

To Karen's Family and Dear Friends,I have known Karen for over 30 years, having hired her to cater events at my company and catering parties at my home. She was a special lady who knew how to entertain with the best theme ideas, menus, and best staff! Her professionalism, no nonsense attitude, and sense of humor only added to her charm and success!Years ago, on my mother's 80th birthday my family treated her to a special luncheon at Julie's and Karen surprised her with flaming cherries jubilee! Karen made my mother feel like a queen that day!! always celebrate my birthday at Julie's Restaurant bar with her long time friend and bartender, Albert. I know it will be a huge loss to him and her other staff. I last saw her in her office at my last birthday dinner and we had a wonderful chat and I met her very much loved puppy, Charlie.Julie's Restaurant is a special place and hopefully will continue under her heavenly guidance! Karen will be sorely missed by all who knew her, whether through her business dealings or personally. God Bless you, Karen. Rest In Peace. ❤️🙏Judy Bell

February 22 at 3:31 PM



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RS

Rod And Betsey Skelton posted:

I am so saddened to hear of Karen's passing.....I worked with Karen from the early days of Tonino's Trattoria in Liverpool in the 80's ; following her to Julie's Place and Karen's Catering for 9 years there.....words cannot even convey what a wonderful person she was....her enthusiasm for her job was infectious and one could not but feel as though you were important and appreciated by her. She was the fairest, kindest, most understanding person to work for....I am so sadRest in Peace Beautiful Lady....You were loved and admired by so many more people than you could ever know....The Syracuse Restaurant Community has lost one they will never be able to replace.....She was one in a million....Loved you, Karen.....Sympathies to Nini, your Mom and Billy; and all who loved you.

February 22 at 3:25 PM

FS

From Bill Winnewisser And Joanne Swenton sent a Basket Full of Wishes to the White family.



February 22 at 3:18 PM

LS

Laura Serway posted:

Amazing woman, outstanding business person and a kind hearted person. Your talents, skills and passion for the food industry and people in general has set the standard for all of us in Syracuse. Thank you Karen, Rest In Peace. Thank you for inspiring us to be better women.

February 22 at 2:42 PM

JK

Jackie Kaufman posted:

Our deepest, loving condolences to all who cared for and loved Karen. She was a gem. She always expressed a caring concern for our family's well being. We will miss her very much. With love and respect, Jackie and Morris Kaufman

February 22 at 2:36 PM



Tribute Wall

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BW

Bill Winnewisser posted:

Karen White was a peach ! She has been a wonderful friend for many years going back to the days when Julie's Restaurant was the Poseidon (if my memory serves me correctly) when I owned my business and, thru the years, entertained many a client for lunches and dinners, and held staff Christmas parties/lunches there. Karen was always a most welcoming host. Syracuse has lost a charming winner. She will be sorely missed by many people no doubt - me included. May God rest your soul sweet lady!!Bill Winnewisser

February 22 at 1:57 PM

AM

Anthony Mucedola lit a candle in honor of Karen .

My heart is deeply saddened with the news of the passing of Karen. I first met Karen through a friend, Linda Rodriguez Layton, in the early 80's when she came to work at my father's restaurant, Tonino's Trattoria, in Liverpool, NY. We all knew we were going to like her from the minute she walked in the door. She had enthusiasm, creative ideas, great personality and was someone who didn't mind working those long restaurant hours. You asked her to do a job and it got done. I left Tonino's in 1987 to pursue a career in the airline industry and even so I kept in touch with Karen throughout the years. We could pick up where we left off like time had not separated us. Karen and a friend, unbeknown at that time to me who it was in that other boat, even came to my rescue when my boat stalled out on the Seneca River, just a ways from my home and she and her friend towed me in. That's the kind of caring person Karen was. Always willing to lend a helping hand. To Karen's Mom, you raised a wonderful daughter and I'm sure she was the best sister a brother could ask for. You will be missed Karen White. May you forever watch over us all and forever be at peace. I'm glad you were my friend. My sympathy to your partner and to all. Anthony Mucedola and Stephen Doloisio



February 22 at 1:03 PM



Tribute Wall

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PD

Patti Depaulis posted:

I am terribly saddened to hear of the passing of this wonderful lady. Karen was gracious and kind. She loved her work and her customers. I will miss her so much. My condolences to the Julies Family.with lovePatti DePaulis

February 22 at 1:03 PM

CH

Carol O'hara February 26 at 11:27 AM

Our sympathy to Karen's family and loved ones. Always gracious,efficient,and caring... From weddings at our home, and events at Julie's - she will be remembered in prayer.The Dennis O'Hara family

VI

Victor Ianno February 23 at 5:43 AM

The question, "how you doing Karen"... The answer "Perfect, couldn't be better" . That was Karen, a caring compassionate woman who shared the joys of life and her skills with everyone who called on her. Can't thank her enough for her help and concern during our families time of need.Rest in peace smiling sweet lady.Our condolences to you Nini, we share your grief.The Victor Ianno family

DH

Deborah Haffner February 23 at 3:57 AM

So sadden to hear of Karen's passing. She was such a caring kind person and such a professional. Always made everyone feel welcome. She will be missed so much. Rest in peace Karen.



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Karen by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit

