



Karren Sue Lenz

October 23, 1940 - October 28, 2019

Karren Sue (Hook) Lenz, age 79, of Marion, IL, a loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend passed away peacefully at 5:35 a.m. on Monday, October 28, 2019, with Hospice Care at home after a 4 month long battle with Glioblastoma. Family surrounded her, as she took the hand of Jesus and left this earthly life to spend eternity with him and those that have gone before her.

Karren was born on Wednesday, October 23, 1940, in Herrin, IL the daughter of Oscar LeRoy and Julia Ann (Hemlock) Hook.

She attended grade school in Zeigler, Royalton, IL, and Linton, IN and was a graduate of Herrin High School Class of 1958.

Karren's working career began at age 17 as a secretary for the Department of Personnel in Springfield, IL. After several years, she transferred to the Southern Illinois Office in Herrin. This office moved to Marion in 1972. She retired as an Administrative Assistant with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs located in the Marion State Office Building, at the age of 57 on January 1, 1998.

She was united in marriage to Thomas Rollin Lenz on Friday, May 8, 1998, in Belleville, IL. She and her husband had been together since December of 1982.

Karren was baptized on June 10, 1990, at the First Church of God in Herrin.

Some of Karren's favorite memories were as a child living in Linton, IN. But her most wonderful memories were spending time with her husband, children, grandchildren, sisters, cousins and friends. She looked forward to hosting her Ukrainian Dinner for her sisters and cousin and also having HUGE Easter Dinners with Baskets and Easter Egg Hunts for her grandchildren, great grandchildren and nieces and nephews.

Karren was a kind hearted, loving person who always did the best for her children and always put them and others before her. Throughout her journey she taught her children that family always comes first and to enjoy the simple things in life. Her grandchildren meant everything to her and were her world. Although her battle was short, she fought hard and vigilant until the end, just as she had done throughout her entire life. Always putting one foot forward and trailing a path that can surely inspire others. Her smile, hugs, kisses and laughter will be missed, but will one day be felt and heard again. Let all those that knew her take time from their day to celebrate her life just as she would want.

She is survived by her husband, Thomas R. Lenz of Marion; daughter and son-in-law, Julie and Jeff Meneese of Marion; two sons and daughter-in-law, Jon and Kristy Neville of Johnston City, IL and Phillip Conner of Marion; grandchildren, Justin Boaz, Tyler Meneese, Nicholas Meneese and his wife Leilani, Michael Meneese, Emily Meneese, Zach Garland and his wife Kayleigh, Mason Bruce, Kayden Neville, Breanna Norris, Brandi Conner, Bethany Conner, nine great grandchildren and a host of nieces and nephews. Also surviving are three sisters and two brothers-in-law, Dodie and Delbert Denam, Jacky Brown and Helen and Earl Todd all of Herrin; sister-in-law, Pat Lenz of Springfield, IL; uncle, Sam Garnati of Herrin; cousin, Karla Mees and her husband Bob of Carterville, IL and special friends, Dave Morris, Pat Noakes, Carol Cruse and Gaytha Smith.

Her parents, beloved Aunt Hatchu, stepfather Jack Gray, cousin Chuck Garnati, maternal grandparents and paternal grandparents, preceded her in death.

The family wishes to express how much she loved her family and friends and will always be remembered as a loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister, cousin and friend. We would also like to extend our deepest gratitude to Hospice, the many friends/family that helped during this time, whether it was with prayers, meals, or visits. Last, but certainly not least, we would like to thank TLC Home Care, specifically Lisa Fann, for taking such good care of our mother during her illness. We will forever be grateful for each and every one of you. Arrangements were entrusted to Wilson-McReynolds Funeral Home, 900 N. Court St., Marion.

The visitation was from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Friday, November 1, 2019, at the funeral home.

Following the time of visitation, the funeral service was at 1:30 p.m. with her daughter and son-in-law, Julie and Jeff Meneese and son, Jon Neville presiding.

Comment of memories by the grandchildren was presented by Emily Meneese being supported by the grandchildren around her.

The prelude and postlude musical selections were recorded piano selections.

Special vocal musical selections presented during the service were "It Is Well With My Soul" by Leilani Meneese being accompanied on the guitar by Jeff Meneese and "Amazing Grace - My Chains Are Gone" by Jeff Meneese who accompanied himself on the guitar.

Interment followed in Rose Hill Cemetery of Marion.

Pallbearers were Justin Boaz, Michael Meneese, Nicholas Meneese, Mason Bruce, Nathan Dawson and Stephen Garland.

At the graveside those attending sang "Amazing Grace".

Following the committal service at the graveside the family and friends gathered at Walt's Restaurant of Marion for a meal and continued time of fellowship.

For those who preferred, memorial contributions were made to either or both;

“Glioblastoma Foundation” and/or the “The Alzheimer’s Association” and mailed in care of Wilson-McReynolds Funeral Home, 900 N. Court Street, Marion, IL 62959. Memorial envelopes were available at the funeral home.

For additional information call the funeral home at 618-993-2131.

Cemetery

Rose Hill Cemetery
1445 North Court Street
Marion, IL, 62959

Events

NOV 1 Visitation 11:00AM - 01:30PM

1
Wilson-McReynolds Funeral Home
900 N. Court St., Marion, IL, US, 62959

NOV 1 Funeral Service 01:30PM

1
Wilson-McReynolds Funeral Home
900 N. Court St., Marion, IL, US, 62959

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Wilson-McReynolds Funeral Home - October 31, 2019 at 11:35 AM



“ Karla Mees lit a candle in memory of Karren Sue Lenz



Karla Mees - October 31, 2019 at 10:07 PM



“ Robert Mees lit a candle in memory of Karren Sue Lenz



Robert Mees - October 31, 2019 at 08:13 PM



“ 2 files added to the album LifeTributes



Wilson-McReynolds Funeral Home - October 31, 2019 at 01:52 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karren Sue Lenz.



October 31, 2019 at 01:17 PM



“ 135 files added to the album LifeTributes



Wilson-McReynolds Funeral Home - October 31, 2019 at 11:27 AM



“ TLC HOME CARE lit a candle in memory of Karren Sue Lenz



TLC HOME CARE - October 30, 2019 at 09:41 AM



“ Karren Sue Lenz was not just my mom. She was truly my very best friend. She was laughter and tears and I was fortunate enough to have shared both with her. We had so much fun together! She was the greatest influence over my life and she was my biggest fan. There was no place that I went that she wasn't along for the ride. Now there is no place I go that I don't look over and see her sweet face right beside me. I held her hand as she took her last breath and it was a true honor to have shared that last moment with her. We shared everything and there was absolutely no topic too difficult or off the table, so why would this be any different? I carry her with me and I will be forever grateful for the gift of her life. God sure knew what he was doing when he gave her to me. So thank you mom for your love and friendship, for teaching me how to endure hardships in this life, and showing me that living in gratitude is a daily

choice that you chose until the very end. I'm so proud of you.



Julie Meneese - October 30, 2019 at 09:28 AM



“ I love you momma.



Jon Neville - October 29, 2019 at 11:59 PM



“ Sending LOTS of Love and comfort to ALL the family !!!!!
We so loved Karren, she was a blessing when she entered into the Lenz side of the family. We will so miss her presence among us, but know she will be forever in our hearts. Love, Marcia & Bart Davis and Family

Marcia - October 29, 2019 at 09:58 PM



“ Marcia & Bart Davis lit a candle in memory of Karren Sue Lenz



Marcia & Bart Davis - October 29, 2019 at 09:39 PM



“ Lani Smith lit a candle in memory of Karren Sue Lenz



Lani Smith - October 29, 2019 at 06:03 PM



“ My Grandma was Extraordinary theres no simple way to describe her! I had & have nothing but respect for her, never have I ever respected anyone as much as her. I have so many memories, letters and cards to hold onto. Theres no doubt my grandma loved me and if it werent for her theres may years holidays would have sucked but she ALWAYS made them Great why I'll tell you why because she was the BEST grandma ANYONE could have ever asked for I'll forever love & miss her.....for now I'll see you later grandma



Breanna N - October 29, 2019 at 05:11 PM



“ Wilson-McReynolds Funeral Home lit a candle in memory of Karren Sue Lenz



Wilson-McReynolds Funeral Home - October 29, 2019 at 11:52 AM



“ Mother-in-Law: one who has a legal affinity with another by being the mother of one's wife Karren was so much more to me than just a legal term. She was not just Julie's mom. There are many funny stories or maybe even horror stories of in laws becoming outlaws. Not in our case. She was the most kind, caring, and loving mother

in law one could ever hope for. Every day we will miss her, long for her, and draw from the memories and wisdom she left with us. We also rejoice with and for her as now she is in the very presence of the Living God. No more pain. No more suffering, and, praise God, no more cancer. Joy beyond measure is her's now jeff

Jeff Meneese - October 29, 2019 at 09:18 AM



“ Thank you Jeff. (Jon)

Jon Neville - October 30, 2019 at 12:01 AM