



Karen Sue Huffman

February 21, 1941 - December 16, 2014

- Karen Sue Huffman, 73, of Traverse City, passed away peacefully Tuesday, December 16, 2014 surrounded by her loving family.

Karen was born on Friday, February 21, 1941 in Detroit, the only child of Edward and Susan (Eberst) Krause. She attended Catholic Schools in Detroit, graduating from Dominican High School in 1958. In September of that same year, she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph Convent in Nazareth, MI, becoming a Nun. Karen began her teaching career in 1967, having taught in Catholic Schools, Lamphere School and Central Lake Schools. She left teaching for a short while to work in the FUS (Families Under Stress) program for the Diocese of Gaylord, later becoming a teacher with GTACS for 25 years, having taught in several of their schools here. Karen loved to read, work crosswords, snowmobile, and enjoyed traveling with her husband. She especially enjoyed Red Wing Hockey and was a huge Detroit Tigers fan. Karen always cared for others before herself. Her greatest love was spending time with her husband, family and grandchildren.

Karen is survived by her husband Henry, who she married on October 14, 1975 in Acme, her son Eric (Jennifer) of Traverse City; her grandsons, Nathan and Lucas; step-children, Loretta Ann (Shawn) Kidder, Carl (Akiko) Huffman and Johnny (Shelly) Huffman, several step-grandchildren; and her extended Krause and Eberst families, especially her godson David Krause. In addition to her parents, Karen was preceded in death by her cousin, Bob Krause.

Visitation for Karen will take place from 6 until 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19 at The Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home. The Rosary will be prayed at 7 p.m., led by Deacon Rene Hoenscheid. The Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Saturday at St. Francis Catholic Church with burial in Grand Traverse Memorial Gardens.

Memorial contributions may be directed to The Father Solanus Guild, 1780 Mt. Elliott, Detroit, MI 48207, The Sisters of St. Joseph-Nazareth, P. O. Box 29, Nazareth, MI 49074-0029, The Women's Cancer Fund c/o Munson Healthcare Regional Foundation, 1150

Medical Campus Dr., Traverse City, MI 49684 or The Lupus Foundation, 2000 L Street, NW, Suite 410, Washington, DC 20036-4916.

The family would like to thank the staff of Traverse Manor and Munson Hospice for the excellent care they provided to Karen.

Please share your memories and thoughts of Karen with her family by way of her online guest book at <http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com>.

The family is being served by Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Cemetery

Events

Grand Traverse Memorial Gardens
3575 Veterans Drive
Traverse City, MI, 49684

DEC
19

Visitation 06:00PM - 08:00PM

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

DEC
19

Rosary 07:00PM

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

DEC
20

Funeral Mass 11:00AM

St. Francis Catholic Church
1025 S. Union, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

Comments



“ Reading the many stories that people have written in memory of Karen have brought back the many things I remember about her. She was a good role model and was so thoughtful, kind and caring, something that everyone can aspire to. Though I haven't seen Karen in many years, we did keep in touch for a long while with Christmas cards and letters. I have never forgotten her warm and loving smile and the great talks we had while our boys were bowling on a league together. She was a wonderful Christian woman. Love you Karen. God be with you.

Kathy Glefke

Kathy Glefke - January 22, 2015 at 06:51 AM



“ Mrs. Huffman was my home room teacher at ICMS in 1992-93. Seventh grade was a really stressful time in my life (as I'm sure it is for a lot of students), and what I remember most about Mrs. Huffman was her wonderful sense of humor. During reading time she encouraged students to sit in the awkward "posturizer" chair in the front of her classroom. One didn't really sit so much as kneel on the front part while sort of leaning against the back part, all while facing your classmates and trying to hold your book up. It wasn't especially comfortable, and I doubt anyone improved their posture, but it became a sort of amusing privilege to occupy it. Of course, a side benefit was that our efforts made Mrs. H laugh.

I also remember her decision to read S.E. Hinton's "The Outsiders" aloud to us-- while some parents felt that there were more "literary" works out there to be read, I think that she recognized that there was something to be gained in hearing a gritty adolescent novel that dealt with characters and events far outside our limited experience. I think she knew that seventh graders would be more likely to pay attention to material that seemed more "edgy." More importantly, I think she recognized that a book doesn't have to be a part of the classic "canon" in order to provoke thought, introspection, and empathy in the reader.

She was a great teacher. She will be missed.

Em Rossi

Em Rossi - December 21, 2014 at 08:44 AM



“ Dear Hank, Eric & Family, I was saddened when Cousin Cindy called me 3 days ago about the Passing of my Cousin, Karen Sue!!! She was a Wonderful Lady, who helped & worked with so many Students & people, & her Family all through her Lifetime. She taught & provided knowledge & insight to many others in her own Unique way, that allowed them to reach a Higher Level of Education & Understanding!!! I will always remember the Last time we visited in Michigan & came up to Beautiful Traverse City on the Bay, & met with You all @ Bob Evans & had a Great Lunch, while discussing past Good Times!!! As God looks over her, may He also Look down & Bless All of You in the Time Ahead!!! She will always be Remembered by so many Folks & Family,
With Best Wishes, Howard & Charlotte Hatschek Orangevale, California

Howard Hatschek - December 20, 2014 at 05:01 PM



“ To the Huffman Family...

I had Mrs. Huffman in 7th grade at ICMS in 96/97. I loved her class and her outlook on life. Remembering her infectious laugh and great wisdom today...a dear soul she was! Many prayers and good wishes being sent your way.

Megan Brown

Megan Brown - December 20, 2014 at 12:11 PM



“ The world is a much better place to have had Karen in it. Her beautiful smile and calming presence will always be fondly remembered. Peace be with you Henry and the entire Huffman family.

With love,
Maggie Siler

Maggie - December 19, 2014 at 09:10 PM



“ So very sorry

ralph merchant - December 19, 2014 at 08:33 PM



“ I remember having a particularly bad day in seventh grade. Mrs. Huffman sought me out, sat me down, and we talked. She had me laughing so hard I started to cry. A couple of times, even as an adult I'd see her at a function, she patted the spot next to her so I'd sit with her and talk awhile. I don't even remember what was said during our conversations but I know how she made me feel... And I never felt judged, and always felt loved even at my worst.

Love you Mrs. H!

Our deepest sympathies Huffman family. Thinking of you!

autumn brady - December 19, 2014 at 12:22 PM



“ Dear Huffman Family,
I came to know Karen while I was a student at St. Francis High School (1977-1981). When Loretta and I became friends I was privileged to get to know her not only as a teacher but as a very caring and involved mom. She was a steady source of love, acceptance, and humor. My high school experience was made even richer because Karen was a part of it. A beautiful lady with a beautiful spirit. How lucky we all have been to have had this special person touch our lives.

I am so sorry for your loss. I hope you find comfort in knowing that you have a wonderful angel in Heaven.

God Bless,
Dana Olm

Dana Olm - December 19, 2014 at 11:59 AM



“ I was very saddened to hear of this. She was one of the most memorable teachers I had. Her sense of humor, laugh and her patience were some of her attributes. The class of TCSF 1985 is a better class because of her. God Bless you

Jennifer (Hogan) Linder - December 19, 2014 at 08:30 AM



“ Hank Eric and family; Karen's sense of humor and deep faith were contagious. She brought joy to many and inspired others with her encouragement. My condolences to all of you. May God bless you and carry you during this time of loss.

Mary Conroy - December 19, 2014 at 05:05 AM



“ Eric, Jenni and family,
I am sorry for your loss. You and your family will be in my prayers.
-David Thelen

David Thelen - December 18, 2014 at 12:30 PM



“ To Hank, Eric and family, Hank as you know I worked with Karen when the FUS program was started at Catholic Social services. I was able to only rarely see her , and you, after we all moved on. But her spirit always was present when thoughts of her occurred and I always could smile to myself at her memory. She was a delight to know and work with and befriending her between her sacred life , (nun) and her new challenge as a social worker with FUS was indeed an adventure for herand we fellow workers! For certain she was a special part of my life at that stage and her humor and compassion were beyond compare....Blessings and Balance to your family. Dave Manthei

david manthei - December 18, 2014 at 12:25 PM



“ This has been a difficult week for the Class of '85 from St. Francis and the loss of Mrs. H. is sobering to say the least. She is truly a remarkable woman and touched so many lives. I remember her contagious laugh and strict demeanor when it came to learning. When I look back to childhood and my years at Immaculate Conception and St. Francis, Karen is always a central figure in my memories. I remember the hours she spent reading to us and teaching us the value of the written word and how precious books are. Always leading, comforting, and engaged. Always strong and supporting. Always the epitome of a teacher. Rest now, surely your reward awaits you in heaven.
-Gary Rushton, Phoenix, AZ

Gary Rushton - December 18, 2014 at 11:53 AM



“ Dear Eric, Hank, and Family,
Your Mom, Wife, and friend to so many, always communicated with people of all ages in a very real, honest, and encouraging way. That will always be in my memories of Karen. We have all been fortunate to witness her good nature, grace, compassion, courage, and intelligence applied with her students, her community, and in her own life. Her virtues continue to carry on in you, her family, her students, and all others that she met in her different roles of service to her fellow women and men. We are thankful to know her and you are all in our thoughts and prayers!

Peace be with you,

Steve

Steve King - December 18, 2014 at 11:33 AM



“ Dear Hank and Erick, I'm so saddened to hear of Karen's passing. She was a wonderful woman, wife, mother and grandmother as well as an extraordinary teacher. Karen and I met years ago when she worked with the FUS program - our paths crossed many times through life and I am ever so blessed to have known her and learned from her. She was always kind, affirming, validating and caring. May she rest in the arms of the Lord now to be comforted herself. May you also feel the peace and comfort of the Lord yourself as you grieve the loss of this wonderful woman.

You are in my thoughts and prayers,
Mary Bauer-Schaub

Mary Bauer Schaub - December 18, 2014 at 11:28 AM



“ Dear Hank and Erick. I was so sorry to read of Karen's death. We were just talking about her the other day, recalling all the fun we had while teaching at St. Francis. She was a great person. I remember her care and concern for her parents when they lived at Kings' Court. And I witnessed her love and concern for the two of you. And she truly cared for her students. I have so many wonderful memories of her. She is now your personal Saint in Heaven.

I will pray for you both during this time of sorrow.

Love,
Barb

Barbara Bonham - December 18, 2014 at 10:41 AM



“ Hank and family, very sorry for your loss... I have fond memories of Karen. she was a great teacher and believer in me as a pre-teen at Immaculate conception. I trusted her like a mom cause she had that aura about her. She was strict - but loving and caring.

God bless you and your family and sorry you lost such a great woman.

Tony Dell'Acqua



Anthony Dell'Acqua - December 18, 2014 at 07:52 AM



“ Karen brought so many happy moments while teaching at Immaculate Conception and left us with a treasure trove of memories. We will never be able to forget her. We are praying for you in this difficult time.

Elizabeth Barsheff - December 18, 2014 at 07:50 AM