



## Karen Ann Mudgett

December 14, 1941 - December 9, 2019

Karen Ann Mudgett, 77 of Traverse City, passed away quietly in her home on December 9, 2019. Karen was born December 14, 1941 in Freeland, MI to parents Ludwig “Louie” and Anna (Pacek) Rau.

Karen was a Registered Nurse who received her nursing degree from Saginaw General Hospital School of Nursing in 1962. She was president of her graduating class and received the Aleda E. Lutz award of merit at graduation. She kept in touch with several of her nursing school classmates over the years even though some lived in different states. She was also part of the Nurses’ Health Study, one of the largest investigations into the risk factors for major chronic diseases ever conducted.

After becoming an R.N., Karen worked at Midland Hospital where she met her husband Jim, who was an Intern there. They were married in Midland on July 2, 1966. Because of her husband’s service in the Air Force, they were stationed in Cape Cod and Santa Barbara where Karen also worked as a nurse. After raising her two daughters, Karen went back to work teaching nursing at TBA Career Tech Center, sharing her experience and helping launch local youth in successful careers in healthcare. After she retired from TBA, she worked until 2013 as a Clinical Skills Observer for the state of Michigan to help certify Nurse Assistants.

In the late 1960s, Jim and Karen moved to Beulah and then Charlevoix for Jim’s medical school residency. They moved to Traverse City in 1970. In 1988, Karen and Jim bought a summer cottage on the south end of Lake Leelanau. Over the course of many years, Karen transformed the grounds of the property. She was an avid home gardener with an enviable green thumb. She loved tending vegetables and grew a rainbow of perennials and annuals. Anyone who visited in the summer was struck by the beauty of her hard work. The setting was so lovely, that her daughter Jayne was married on the lawn in 1998. Karen’s other hobbies included yoga, knitting and the thrill of the hunt for a good shopping bargain.

In 2008, on the site of the old cottage, Karen built her dream home decorated with a water-inspired palette of greens and blues. She enjoyed the peacefulness and views of the lake from her new house.

Karen also loved dogs. The family got their first Springer Spaniel Daisy in 1989. Karen was thrilled when Daisy gave birth to nine puppies. They ended up keeping one of the puppies Dan, who lived happily with his human and canine mom for many years. Karen was also a mom to her Yorkie Max and her spunky new puppy Sweetie, a Maltipoo.

Always a caregiver, Karen set a good example for her family who cared for her when she was in Hospice. When Anne was in a car accident in 2002, Karen and Jim spent the better part of the summer caring for her, moving into family housing next to the hospital in Denver, Colorado. She also came out to Colorado to assist for several weeks after each of her grandchildren were born.

Karen is survived by her daughters Anne (Scott Furgueson) Mudgett of Steamboat Springs, CO and Jayne (Paul) Weiss of Ft. Collins, CO; grandchildren Collin Mudgett-Furgueson and Ava and Nate Weiss; her puppy Sweetie; and other extended family and friends.

Karen was predeceased by her parents; husband Dr. James I. Mudgett; sisters Patricia Henige and Maxine Hensler.

A memorial service honoring Karen will take place 11AM, Friday, December 13, 2019 at Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home, 305 Sixth Street, Traverse City, MI 49684. Visitation will begin at 10AM and continue until the time of service.

Memorials may be directed to Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, 3860 N. Long Lake RD, Suite D, Traverse City, MI 49684 or to Leelanau Conservancy, 105 North First Street, Leland, MI 49654.

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation services is caring for Karen and her family.

# Events

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**DEC** **Memorial Service** 11:00AM - 11:00AM

**13**

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Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home

305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

# Comments

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“ Lovely Karen, I was sad to learn of your passing, memories of many good times when Jim was still with us and singing come flooding back. You were such a great hostess for our church choir and spouses annual "steak fry" at your beautiful cottage. I admired so much your quiet, confident support and example at all times. Rest in peace, dear Karen, so many of us will miss you and be thankful for having had you in our lives.

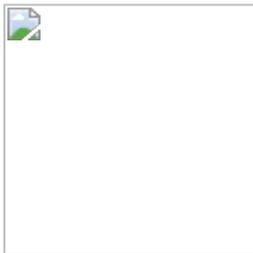
Elsie Randall

Elsie Randall - December 16, 2019 at 10:19 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Karen Mudgett



Furgie - December 12, 2019 at 10:10 PM



“ What an extraordinarily beautiful visual journey of such an extraordinarily beautiful being. Thank you for the thought, time and love in putting this together and taking us on such a moving remembrance. Embracing peace to all.

Sterling Cole (Stoll)

**Sterling Cole** - December 13, 2019 at 03:28 PM



“ Perfectly said. The journey with your Mom meant a lot to me/touched my heart. Jane Newman Pepper

**Jane Newman Pepper** - December 14, 2019 at 07:58 AM

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“ We're encouraging everyone to wear bright colors to the service in honor of Karen's green thumb and fabulous flower gardens. -Anne Mudgett & Jayne Weiss

Anne Mudgett - December 12, 2019 at 07:47 PM

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“ Oh Anne, I am so, so sorry to hear of the passing of your sweet, gentle mama. Sending hugs and warmth to you, Furgie, and Collin. Anne Fleming

Anne Fleming - December 12, 2019 at 02:00 PM

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“ Anne, Jayne & families,  
Your mom was an incredible, soft spoken & beautiful lady! I'm so sorry for your loss!!  
You are in my thoughts and prayers !

Mitzi Monroe - December 12, 2019 at 03:58 AM

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“ Jayne and Anne  
Your mother was like a sister to me and I will miss her very much. Our neighborhood won't be the same without her. She was a beautiful lady.  
Jon and Penny Boulton

Penny Boulton - December 11, 2019 at 11:59 AM

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“ Jane and Anne,

Your Mom was such a kind, gentle soul who will be greatly missed by her many friends and family. You both gave her the greatest gift of love in caring for her at home. Prayers and peaceful memories to you both.  
Jim and Jan Anderson

Jan Anderson - December 10, 2019 at 03:11 PM



“ Jane and Anne,

My heart breaks for you and your families. Your mother was such a good friend. We shared a love for Dan and Max. I moved into her homes to care for them when she visited you in Colorado. She was a wonderful, caring person and I feel blessed that she shared some meaningful parts of her life with me. She will be missed.

Kathleen Halloran - December 14, 2019 at 09:01 PM