



Karen Sue Bailey

December 16, 1955 - May 15, 2022

Karen Sue Bailey, 66, of Kankakee, passed away Sunday, May 15, 2022 at her home surrounded by loved ones, after a quick but courageous battle with breast cancer.

Karen was born December 16th, 1955 in Gilman, IL, the daughter of Dr. Kendall and Shirley (Ireland) Rowe.

She married Don Bailey, the love of her life, on July 16th, 1988 in Gilman, IL. He preceded her in death on December 25th, 2009.

She graduated from Mennonite College of Nursing in 1978, then earned her Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Nursing from University of Illinois. She dedicated her life to caring for others, as a pediatric RN at Riverside Medical Center before becoming the BBCHS high school nurse for 27 years.

She loved traveling and nature. Her family went on annual summer camping trips to Door County, WI. They also went to the Lake of the Ozarks, MO every summer for over 50 years. She most recently traveled to Key West, Ireland, Australia, and New Zealand, gathering new friends everywhere she went. She was a diehard Green Bay Packers fan, loved a good glass of red wine, reading, and playing cards with her friends. She was an incredible cook and anyone was welcome in her kitchen. Karen enjoyed bike riding, water skiing,

cross country skiing, and going to concerts. As a teenager, she was an accomplished markswoman, winning several awards in rifle sharpshooting. She was always smiling, always grateful, and always the life of the party.

She had a passion for gardening and was a member of the Kankakee County Kultivators. She dedicated much of her free time volunteering in the community and her church, Gathering Point. She made frequent meals for the homeless at Fortitude Community Outreach, served weekly at Center of Hope Food Pantry, and directed the Kids' Hope mentoring program, among many other selfless acts of kindness. She loved all people without judgment, and saw the good in everyone she met. Her Christian faith was at the core of everything she did, and you could see it in the way she lived life every day.

Surviving are her children: Bryan Bailey of Kankakee, Marc (Nicole) Bailey of Kankakee, Scott (Chelsea) Bailey of Sturgis, MI., and Megan (Kevin) Pierson of Bourbonnais; six grandchildren: Christopher Bailey, Jackson Pierson, Hannah Bailey, Lydia Bailey, Piper Bailey, and Lincoln Bailey; four sisters: Sheila (Jerry) West, Nancy (Joel) Davenport, Diane (Dean) Fink, and Lynn (Jerry) Miller; one brother, Doug Rowe; sister-in-law Clarice (David) Roach; and brother-in-law, Paul Bailey (Jean Swee). She is also survived by the incredible Kanosky family, several beloved nieces and nephews, and countless dear friends.

In addition to her husband, she is preceded in death by her parents.

Visitation will be from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, May 19th at Jensen Funeral Home in Kankakee. Additional visitation will be from 10 a.m Friday, May 20th, 2022 until the 11 a.m. funeral service at Gathering Point Church in Bourbonnais. Private Interment will be at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, IL on Monday, May 23, 2022.

Memorials may be made to Fortitude Community Outreach of Kankakee and
Center of Hope Food Pantry in Kankakee

Cemetery Details

Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery

20953 west Hoff Rd
Elwood, IL 60421

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 20. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

GatheringPoint Church
897 W. Bourbonnais Parkway
Bourbonnais, IL 60914

Funeral Service

MAY 20. 11:00 AM (CT)

GatheringPoint Church
897 W. Bourbonnais Parkway
Bourbonnais, IL 60914

Tribute Wall



“ *Karen Sue Bailey*

October 08, 2023 at 04:39 PM



“ *I am beyond words. In my memory Karen will always be that spirited little girl and accomplished young woman. My condolences to Karen's brother and sisters, children, grandchildren and extended family.*



Annette Schjervheim Evans

A. S. Evans - June 02, 2022 at 12:02 PM



“ *I was shocked & saddened to hear of Karens passing 🙄 She will be missed by so many. My deepest & heartfelt sympathies to her family & friends 🙄🌹*

Deborah Tofte - May 22, 2022 at 04:11 PM



“ *Darcy & Donn Kane lit a candle in memory of Karen Sue Bailey*



Darcy & Donn Kane - May 21, 2022 at 03:15 PM

TE

“ Dear Karen's family,

Some of you may remember me as Terry Eshleman. Karen was my first neighbor/friend when I moved to Lincoln Street, Onarga in 1982.

She was always welcoming and friendly. Our boys, Brian and Joe were little buddies then too. Then came my Jessica and her Mark. What a treat it was for me to have her support and friendship as a transplant from CA, and as a new mother too.

I'm so glad she found joy after her heartbreak in Onarga. Thank you for sharing such a lovely tribute to her, and as you know she touched so many lives with an enriching presence.

*She will always be remembered with a smile.
Most sincerely,*

*Terry Eshleman Blackwell
Arcola, IL*

Terry - May 21, 2022 at 11:34 AM

CC

“ *Carla Chase-Earles lit a candle in memory of Karen Sue Bailey*



Carla Chase-Earles - May 19, 2022 at 11:58 PM



“ *Pink Potpourri Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karen Sue Bailey.*



May 19, 2022 at 01:22 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Karen Sue Bailey.*



May 18, 2022 at 06:48 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Karen Sue Bailey.*



May 18, 2022 at 05:50 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Karen Sue Bailey.*



May 18, 2022 at 04:12 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karen Sue Bailey.*



May 18, 2022 at 03:10 PM



“ *I am still in shock! Mrs. Bailey was one of the sweetest ladies I have ever known! Whether it was at BBCHS when I was in high school or at KTA dropping off Piper, she always had a huge smile and kind word. I am really going to miss seeing her.*

Marie Dersien - May 18, 2022 at 02:07 PM



“ *Christopher Wilcox lit a candle in memory of Karen Sue Bailey*



Christopher Wilcox - May 18, 2022 at 01:58 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Karen Sue Bailey.*



May 18, 2022 at 10:28 AM

ES

“ Mrs. Bailey was such a sweet, caring and friendly person. I have fond memories of her as a nurse at BBCHS. To her family and friends: please accept my sincere condolences, thoughts and prayers.

Eric Sadler - May 18, 2022 at 10:17 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karen Sue Bailey.



May 18, 2022 at 09:01 AM

DP

“ Dan and Karen Pierson purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Karen Sue Bailey.



Dan and Karen Pierson - May 18, 2022 at 08:56 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Karen Sue Bailey.



May 18, 2022 at 08:36 AM

CS

“ *Carle Hoopeston Med/Surg and ED Staff purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Karen Sue Bailey.*



Carle Hoopeston Med/Surg and ED Staff - May 18, 2022 at 07:48 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Karen Sue Bailey.*



May 18, 2022 at 01:49 AM

TF

“ *The Kantor Family purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Karen Sue Bailey.*



The Kantor Family - May 17, 2022 at 09:49 PM



“ *Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Karen Sue Bailey.*



May 17, 2022 at 08:09 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Karen Sue Bailey.*



May 17, 2022 at 07:46 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karen Sue Bailey.*



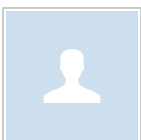
May 17, 2022 at 06:25 PM



“ *Our family and Karen's family spent so many wonderful times boating and water skiing when all the kids were small. I will treasure them always. Karen was always full of fun and energetic. My sincere sympathy to Shiela, Nancy, Diane, Lynn, and Doug. and all the family. We are so sorry.*
Rolland and Nancy zachgo



Nancy Zachgo - May 17, 2022 at 05:58 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karen Sue Bailey.*



May 17, 2022 at 05:57 PM

FG

“ *Meghan, Bryan, and Marc, and the rest of the Bailey family,*

When Karen married Don, it was a welcome addition to our family. Please know that I am thinking of you all, at this most difficult of times. Seems so unfair that she was taken way to soon, but that's not our choice to make. The only good thing is that I know she and Don are together again. I'm sure they are watching over all of you.

My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Frances Graves



Frances Graves - May 17, 2022 at 04:35 PM

MS

“ *Mary Ann Matern Senesac lit a candle in memory of Karen Sue Bailey*



Mary Ann Matern Senesac - May 17, 2022 at 04:00 PM

PB

“ *Mr. Bailey was my guidance counselor and i remember when they got married. Mrs. Bailey was one of the sweetest people you could ever have known. She always let me come to the nurse's office and would lend an ear to whatever nonsense was in the spotlight of my life at the time. She didn't judge, she would listen and just offer some advice. She will be greatly missed.*

Puck Bateman-Roberts - May 17, 2022 at 02:53 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karen Sue Bailey.*



May 17, 2022 at 02:16 PM