



Karen G. Shepler

January 19, 1956 - January 14, 2021

Karen Gayle Shepler, age 64, passed away on January 14, 2021. She was born on January 19, 1956 in Highland Park to Robert Smith and June Burley Smith. A lifelong Royal Oak resident, Karen met the love of her life, Robert Shepler, at the Royal Oak Ice Arena. Karen was a beautiful 16 year old figure skater, and Rob was a dashing 18 year old Zamboni driver. They fell head over heels for each other and married 2 years later. Karen and Rob spent a lot of time at the ice arena raising their 4 children in true "Rink Rat" fashion with 2 figure skaters and 2 hockey players.

Karen enjoyed teaching and enriching children in every way especially skating. Her true gift was to teach through play and imagination, and it has forever changed the way skating is taught today. Karen was a very outgoing, boisterous, extremely giving and above all a genuinely loving person. She lit up any room that she entered, her love for life just glowed. Karen was the sort of person who left an unbelievable imprint on anyone she ever crossed paths with. There was no place that Karen went without seeing someone she knew or making a new friend; Heart and soul, she truly had a gift. Recently Karen was employed at Ferndale High School as a Para-professional. Her love of children was never ending. Her "kids" at Ferndale were so important to her, they were like an extension of her own family.

We know that she is at peace and reunited with her mother and beloved dog

Jax, watching over and smiling down upon us.

Beloved wife of Rob Shepler. Loving mother of Stacey (Andrew) Long, Theresa (Michael) Berry, Amy Shepler, David (Katie) Shepler and the late Stephen Shepler. Proud grandmother of Gavin Klein, Anneliese Klein, Evan Berry, Audrey Berry and Isabella Shepler. Cherished daughter of the late Robert and June Smith. Dear sister of Lynne (Don) Pratt and Wayne (Donna) Smith.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, January 20 from 2-8 pm at Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Home, 705 W. 11 Mile Rd. (4 blks E. of Woodward), Royal Oak. Please note that due to COVID restrictions, masks are required in the funeral home and a maximum of 25 people are allowed at a time for the visitation. Share your memories at www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **20**. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak

705 W. Eleven Mile Road

Royal Oak, MI 48067

(248) 541-7000

royal@sullivanfh.com

<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Tribute Wall

AE

“ I can still visualize Karen...on the ice in Royal Oak...commanding and directing 20+ Tots - with only one helper!

She was a GREAT teacher who was kind, enthusiastic and caring.

She will be missed!

Sending heartfelt prayers and sympathy...

*Sincerely,
Ann Endres*

Ann Endres - January 24, 2021 at 05:56 PM

CT

“ There are some who bring a light so great to the world that even after they are gone the light remains. This quote reminds me of Karen she is such a bright light and will be greatly missed. I am so very sorry for your loss. Love The Thornton family

cheryl thornton - January 23, 2021 at 05:35 PM

MD

“ Our thoughts are with the entire Shepler family. We have fond memories of Karen being a big part of skating lessons and ice shows with both of our children. She was a bright light who will be missed by many.

Michelle and Brian Dittmer - January 22, 2021 at 03:55 PM



“ Our thoughts are with the Rob and the entire Shepler Family during this difficult time.
Jack and Kathy Sawtell

Kathleen Kavanagh - January 21, 2021 at 05:26 PM



“ Years ago, Karen was that big smile you saw at the ice rink every Saturday morning. All four of my kids skated and she treated them all with the utmost respect. Two of them worked under her guidance as a learn to skate instructor and hockey instructor. She was a gem. I missed our weekend coffee mornings and chats after she left the rink. She was always so kind and when she attended my daughters graduation party she made sure that she got her the perfect gift, one to remember her by. Karen you will be missed! From all of the Benoit 's... Thank you! 💕💕💕



Mary Pat Benoit - January 20, 2021 at 06:00 PM



“ My Deepest Sympathy for your loss...She was a ray of sunshine when I walked by with Jake, always encouraged me and most of all her smile. So very sorry for this loss. The Entire Shepler Family...

Jeannie DeRocher - January 20, 2021 at 03:51 PM



“ Jeannie DeRocher lit a candle in memory of Karen G. Shepler



Jeannie DeRocher - January 20, 2021 at 03:48 PM

ME

“ *Our family sends our deepest condolences to Rob and his family for the loss of his beloved wife Karen.*

Mike Ellis - January 20, 2021 at 02:00 PM

BK

“ *I would often see Karen walking the halls of FHS with her students. Patience and grace are the two words that come to mind when I think of Karen. FHS is lucky to call her one of ours.*

Brian Kelly

Brian Kelly - January 20, 2021 at 01:18 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karen G. Shepler.*



January 20, 2021 at 11:31 AM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Karen G. Shepler.*



January 20, 2021 at 11:22 AM

KR

“ *Kesha Reed lit a candle in memory of Karen G. Shepler*



Kesha Reed - January 20, 2021 at 09:30 AM

PN

“ *I met Karen when I first started playing hockey. I didn't know her name for the longest time because she was just "Mom". Everyone called her Mom and we all know why, for everyone she met she treated like her own. I felt this from her in very real ways, particularly not having a mother figure of my own, she held me up when I was pregnant with my first child. She bought him books and socks and what became his favorite cherished stuffy, Duffy from Disneyworld. She taught him to skate and when we needed it, she babysat. I saw such love in her, such gifts for working with kids too! I remember asking her if she would consider being a parapro in Ferndale. She wasn't quite sure, but I knew she would love the kids like her own...she's Mom! So glad I could be a small part of her life and a small piece of encouraging her to do what she is amazing at. I saw her last, pre-Covid, at Hollywood Market and we just hugged! I can still feel that hug right now. It's that kind when you know you've been with someone special. Our love to her family and friends during this great loss.*

Pauline Nagle - January 20, 2021 at 12:39 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Karen G. Shepler.*



January 19, 2021 at 07:11 PM



“ *My prayers and condolences go out to the family of Karen Shepler. Karen was a caring and generous person who brought so much joy to our students and so much light in our classrooms. She treated everyone like family, no one was a stranger to her. I will truly miss her.*

~N. Campbell (coworker)

Naomi Campbell - January 19, 2021 at 06:19 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karen G. Shepler.*



January 19, 2021 at 06:19 PM



“ *The Martin & Bono Families purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Karen G. Shepler.*



The Martin & Bono Families - January 19, 2021 at 05:50 PM

FD

“ *Ferndale Schools Special Education Department purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Karen G. Shepler.*



Ferndale Schools Special Education Department - January 19, 2021 at 02:17 PM

BS

“ *I am numb after reading this! Karen had such a loving heart and was there for me in my time of need many years ago. God must have a special need for Karen in heaven to take her away from this life. Prayers, peace, and love to the family.* 💕💕

Bob Stewart - January 19, 2021 at 01:53 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Karen G. Shepler.*



January 19, 2021 at 12:45 PM

BM

“ *Bryan & Justin McCormick purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Karen G. Shepler.*



Bryan & Justin McCormick - January 19, 2021 at 11:26 AM

JO

“ I was so saddened to hear of Karen's passing. Although I didn't work with her in her building, we had great conversations at our many school meetings. Loved her cheerful heart! May the memories of her wonderful personality and the many contributions she made with her students be celebrated by us all.
Sending love & prayers to her family,
Joanne Wrasse

Joanne - January 19, 2021 at 10:39 AM

AK

“ Such a shock! Karen was one of the nicest people you could ever meet, we always greeted with a BIG hug. She was such a special person who loved her kids that she worked with. I will miss your smile , your hugs , I will miss you.

Gone too soon,
your coworker and friend,

Angel Kindred

Angel Kindred - January 19, 2021 at 09:29 AM

LG

“ I am sending all of my love, hugs and prayers. Karen was an amazing woman. She was so strong and a person that I felt honored to be around. She truly cared about people. I'm so very sorry for your loss. Earth lost an angel.

Lindsay Gonska - January 19, 2021 at 08:50 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karen G. Shepler.*



January 19, 2021 at 08:47 AM



“ *Sending healing prayers and comforting hugs to the family. Karen will be missed. I will always appreciated her kindness for covering for me when I was unable to work. May God continue to bless your family in this time of sorrow. Deborah Lofton*

Deborah Lofton - January 19, 2021 at 08:35 AM



“ *I'm still in shock and the world feels so empty with Karen's loss. We grew up just a few doors away from her on W.Webster. Everyone says she was like a sister/mom....but to my family she honestly was and always will be. My mom introduced Karen as a daughter and loved her dearly. We talked during the holidays, I cant believe shes gone. Ill forever love and miss you baby girl. With love, Amy (Ellis) VanPoelvoorde*

Amy VanPoelvoorde - January 19, 2021 at 01:38 AM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Karen G. Shepler.*



January 18, 2021 at 08:21 PM

GH

“ *God's blessings, The Academy of the Sacred Heart purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Karen G. Shepler.*



God's blessings, The Academy of the Sacred Heart - January 18, 2021 at 07:09 PM

WN

“ *With much love, Hal, Susan & Evelyn Nye-Brothers purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Karen G. Shepler.*



With much love, Hal, Susan & Evelyn Nye-Brothers - January 18, 2021 at 06:42 PM

SR

“ *Karen you will be so missed. Your smile, kindness and joy will truly never be forgotten. I Love you my friend. Your Canadian Moose...co-worker Sheila R*

Sheila Rembert - January 18, 2021 at 06:23 PM

SC

“ *Ms. Shepler loved her students! You could really see how much she cared for them. She also loved music and had a great time singing with students.*

Spencer Calhoun - January 18, 2021 at 12:28 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Karen G. Shepler.*



January 18, 2021 at 09:47 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Karen G. Shepler.*



January 17, 2021 at 11:00 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Karen G. Shepler.*



January 17, 2021 at 10:32 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Karen G. Shepler.*



January 17, 2021 at 10:04 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Karen G. Shepler.*



January 17, 2021 at 08:42 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Karen G. Shepler.*



January 17, 2021 at 08:41 PM



“ *Rose Romanesque Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karen G. Shepler.*



January 17, 2021 at 08:05 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karen G. Shepler.*



January 17, 2021 at 05:27 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karen G. Shepler.*



January 17, 2021 at 03:38 PM



“ *Love Karin and Steve purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Karen G. Shepler.*



Love Karin and Steve - January 17, 2021 at 02:52 PM



“ *Love Michael, Jackie and Caitlyn purchased the Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray for the family of Karen G. Shepler.*



Love Michael, Jackie and Caitlyn - January 17, 2021 at 02:46 PM



“ *Although I have not seen Karen over the years I remember her, her sister Lynn, and the Sheplers very well from the RO Lindell Ice Arena. She was a fun loving figure skater with a great spirit. She was always smiling. Karen was always one of my Mom's favorites. Rob and family are in my thoughts and prayers. May she Rest In Peace.*
Karen (Valetti) Valimont

Karen Valimont - January 17, 2021 at 10:29 AM



“ *Bright and Beautiful Spray was purchased for the family of Karen G. Shepler.*



January 17, 2021 at 10:27 AM



“ *So sad, very sorry for your loss. I'll always remember Karen's smiling face and warm conversations at The Rink!! God bless, and RIP Karen.*

William Rossbach - January 17, 2021 at 09:30 AM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Karen G. Shepler.*



January 17, 2021 at 08:38 AM



“ *Karen was the most beautiful person in and out that I ever have known in my life. She was full of life, loyal person with lot of joy on her smile. Karen was a free spirit wanted to enjoy the outdoor walk, her garden or camping. She will be missed from all her friends who have known and met her.*

violeta - January 17, 2021 at 01:28 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karen G. Shepler.*



January 17, 2021 at 01:05 AM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karen G. Shepler.*



January 16, 2021 at 11:42 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Karen G. Shepler.*



January 16, 2021 at 10:52 PM

GR

“ I was a 1st/2nd grade teacher at Lincoln Elementary in Royal Oak and had the pleasure of having Theresa, Stacey, and David in my class. I also got to know Amy over the years. What GREAT kids; what a devoted loving family. I became friendly with Karen and always looked forward to a BIG smile, a laugh and a bushel of warm fuzzies. She was such a devoted mom and wife. She was sooo proud of each kid. She was a most special person with the BIGGEST heart. My deepest sympathy goes out to the family and friends. My heart is heavy and I am so sad .Sending prayers and heartfelt sympathy to the Shepler family. Gail Ryder

Gail Ryder - January 16, 2021 at 10:48 PM



“ Dawn of Remembrance Basket was purchased for the family of Karen G. Shepler.



January 16, 2021 at 10:16 PM

JD

“ Our daughter attends FHS and had classes with Mrs. Shepler. She was extremely sad to learn of her passing. She appreciated Mrs. Shepler's warmth and kindness.

Our family sends your family our deepest sympathies and prayers.

The Deckers

Julie Decker - January 16, 2021 at 09:40 PM

WN

“ My family and i will be eternally grateful for the opportunity to experience the love and sincerity you embodied. Thank you Mrs. Shepler, for treating my grandson like he was one of your own. You are truly amazing. Love Sweetie

Winnifred Nelson - January 16, 2021 at 09:28 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Karen G. Shepler.



January 16, 2021 at 08:58 PM

TM

“ So sorry for your loss. Prayers for the Shepler family and for the friends that lost such a wonderful person.
Theresa

Theresa Franz Mentkowski - January 16, 2021 at 07:23 PM

BS

“ Betsy, Bob, Beth Swanson purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Karen G. Shepler.



Betsy, Bob, Beth Swanson - January 16, 2021 at 06:43 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Karen G. Shepler.*



January 16, 2021 at 06:31 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Karen G. Shepler.*

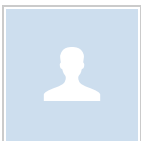


January 16, 2021 at 06:16 PM



“ *Karen was my friend, my neighbor, my kids second mother and like a sister to me. Our kids grew up together and our families were very close. My memories of 4th of July celebrations will always be etched in my heart. I will miss her dearly... prayers to the whole shepler family*❤️

lois - January 16, 2021 at 05:59 PM



“ *Heartfelt Memories was purchased for the family of Karen G. Shepler.*



January 16, 2021 at 05:57 PM