



Karen J. Lesch

April 11, 1961 - January 29, 2018

Karen J. Lesch (nee Zimmerman), age 56 of Schererville, IN, passed away peacefully on January 29, 2018 at the William J. Riley Hospice Residence, from an 18 month battle with pancreatic cancer with her family and friends by her side. She is survived by her husband, Mark A. Lesch, sisters Darlene (Chet) Dobis of Schererville, IN and Tina Zimmerman (Marc Reasoner-partner) of Broomfield, CO, one brother Keith (Rebecca) Zimmerman of Ouray, CO, her fur babies Lido and Hudson, and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her father Joseph Zimmerman and her mother Betty Zimmerman Morrow.

Karen was born April 11, 1961 in Gary, IN and graduated from Andean High School in 1979. She went on to receive her Associate of Science degree from Purdue University Northwest in 1995 and became a registered nurse, most recently employed at Community Healthcare System of Northwest Indiana. She was a member of Gary Beta Rho chapter of the Tri Kappa philanthropic organization. Karen was beloved by all who knew her.

Friends are invited to join the family at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, February 3rd at St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church, 6060 Miller Ave., Gary, IN prior to the Mass of Christian Burial at 11:30 a.m. Bishop Emeritus Dale Melczek officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made to Hospice of the Calumet Area. Burns Funeral Home, Crown Point, IN entrusted with funeral arrangements. www.burnsfuneral.com

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 3. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

St. Mary of the Lake Church
6060 Miller Avenue
Gary, IN

Mass of Christian Burial

FEB 3. 11:30 AM (CT)

St. Mary of the Lake Church
6060 Miller Avenue
Gary, IN

Tribute Wall

JN

“ Karen... You truly touched my life. You touched many a life in your short time here. You are missed and will be for as long as life endures.



Jim Nettles - October 20, 2018 at 06:38 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Karen J. Lesch.



February 02, 2018 at 11:30 AM

FI

“ Friends from Inovonics purchased the Ever Upward Bouquet for the family of Karen J. Lesch.



Friends from Inovonics - February 02, 2018 at 11:11 AM



“ Ever Upward Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karen J. Lesch.



February 02, 2018 at 10:06 AM

DB

“ Karen baked the very best Christmas cookies, was always here to share the produce from her bountiful garden, and never failed to offer her help in any way that she could. She was a wonderful neighbor and a good friend. Heaven has truly gained another angel. May she RIP.



Don and Terry Borem

Don Borem - February 02, 2018 at 01:48 AM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Karen J. Lesch.



February 01, 2018 at 09:19 PM

CO

“ I had the pleasure of meeting Karen while being her home health nurse. I always looked forward to my visits because I enjoyed spending time with her. Such a great lady, and wonderful, brave human being. I was always inspired after I saw her, and admired her greatly.

Christine ONeal - February 01, 2018 at 11:20 AM

LM

“ Karen, you took a piece of my heart with you and for the rest of my life I will never find another friend like you.....50 years of friendship and my sons Godmother, which you took very seriously....you will always, always be with me and some day we'll make those prank calls again and giggle and smile and cry. Fly high and give your mom the biggest hug and kiss for me, and your dad, as well! I imagine you're fixing drinks and laughing with your friends and parents and everyone else you have ever lost. Karen was the only one in the world who ever called me Lori Anne when she was trying to look stern but hiding her smile.. I can't even think of one specific memory because you're in so many of them. Mark, Darlene, Tina and Keith and the rest of the family-I am so very sorry we lost her so young. I feel your pain and am trying to remember she would want our hearts to be filled with love and light. She always took on everyone's pain as her own. You had the best wife and sister and sister-in-law in the world. I'm sorry for our loss but will hang onto the memories she gave all of us. I will celebrate her life, I will celebrate the gift of Karen in my life. Noah will, also. I will see you all soon.
Love always, Lori

Lori Murphy - February 01, 2018 at 11:08 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Karen J. Lesch.



February 01, 2018 at 10:52 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Karen J. Lesch.*



February 01, 2018 at 10:51 AM



“ *Sweet Karen u fought a brave fight it was an honor to know you Rest In Peace sweet girl!*

Brigitte Fuhrman - February 01, 2018 at 10:28 AM



“ *Karen's sister Darlene and I are close friends. When she introduced me to Karen I could tell they were sisters. Karen had a smile to light up the sky and warmth that immediately gave you a sense of comfort. I will always remember her smile. I am so grateful to call Karen my friend.
Her journey these last months showed her strength , tenacity and beauty. I will miss you Karen!*

Chris Kkus - February 01, 2018 at 10:15 AM



“ *I met Karen at work in 2004 she introduced herself to me and immediately became close friends outside of work. We built a friendship and shared all the joy and sorrow of life. She showed me different ways to view the world. Loved me when I wasn't lovable- thank you my friend and homie. I am grateful. Special love to Mark and her family and her other friends as we walk this difficult walk together.
Denise Zeller (your homie)*


Denise Zeller - February 01, 2018 at 09:06 AM

CG

“ Sweet Karen, you fought a courageous fight, fly with the Angels and may peace always be with those you love!

charmaine dybas gore - February 01, 2018 at 08:36 AM

MR

“ I met Karen when she worked with me at Methodist. We shared many laughs over those years. Later, we had many camping memories, both planned or by chance when were at the "same place/same time." I'll always remember her kindness, her laugh, and her shining eyes. The world lost an Angel here on Earth. Til we meet again, my friend..... Wishing strength and comfort to Mark and her numerous family members. 


Mary Ann Rupp - February 01, 2018 at 07:38 AM

SM

“ I worked with Karen at Broadway Methodist for several years in the Emergency Dept. She was a wonderful nurse and friend. I will cherish all the fun times we spent working together as well as all the fun times my husband Ronnie and I had camping with Karen and Mark. She will never be forgotten. Our love and prayers to Mark and her family. Sincerely Shari and Ronnie Mcilvain

Shari Mcilvain - January 31, 2018 at 09:28 PM

SB

“ My deepest condolences to Mark and the rest of Karen's family. She was a great nurse and we all enjoyed working with her. She also had a beautiful soul. My heart breaks for you and your family. May you rest in eternal peace my courageous friend 

Snezana Barancyk - January 31, 2018 at 09:16 PM

GS

“ Sorry for your loss. I worked with her at Methodist SI ER. She was an incredible person and nurse.

Gail Siavelis - January 31, 2018 at 09:08 PM



I worked with Karen at St. Mary Medical Center in the CDI Department. When I first met her I immediately knew I liked her. She was a wonderful person and that was obvious. I couldn't wait to get to know her. We laughed a lot together. I miss you Karen. RIP.
Carolyne

Carolyne Wiesinger - February 02, 2018 at 11:13 AM



Heaven has an Angel now for sure.

Carolyne Wiesinger - February 02, 2018 at 11:14 AM



I worked with Karen when she was a new nurse. She had a great spirit. I am deeply saddened by this news and my thoughts and prayers are with her family.

Laura Chase - February 02, 2018 at 12:44 PM