



Karen Jen Neet

May 18, 1943 - January 8, 2019

Karen Jen Neet, 75, passed away on January 8, 2019, at her home in Pueblo West, Colorado. She went peacefully with her husband and daughters by her side. Karen struggled with non-hodgkins lymphoma for 17 months before complications from the cancer ended her life.

She was born on May 18, 1943, in Trinidad, Colorado, to Leonard and Alice (Sakariason) Hainlen. Karen grew up primarily on her parent's farm/ranch in Bon Carbo, Colorado, where she loved riding bareback on her horse, Frisco. She graduated from Trinidad High School in 1961. After high school, she attended Trinidad State Junior College graduating with an Associate of Arts Degree in Secretarial Studies. Karen worked as an executive secretary for Council of Governments in Trinidad until the birth of her first child. She then chose to be a stay-at-home mom and homemaker.

Karen married Gary Neet on May 8, 1971, in a ceremony at the historic Zion's Lutheran Church in Trinidad. They were happily married for almost 48 years. Over the years, Karen and Gary resided in Trinidad, Greeley, Colorado Springs, Buena Vista, Canon City and Pueblo West, Colorado. Karen was a productive member of each of these communities, serving in civic clubs, providing child care, volunteering in school lunch programs and at school and community functions. For many years, she was an officer in the Buena Vista Booster Club and, in Canon City, volunteered for years with the Chamber of Commerce. She was always willing to donate her time, money and energy to worthy causes and to help someone in need.

Karen enjoyed gardening, watching sports, reading and her many outings with her girlfriends to Cripple Creek, concerts, plays and scenic areas of the state. Most of all, she loved spending time with her family, especially her five grandsons. She also loved to travel and was privileged to visit countries and islands on almost every continent and in almost every ocean and sea. She felt blessed to have been able to see the world, to immerse herself into other cultures and to meet so many diverse and wonderful people.

Karen is survived by her husband, Gary, of Pueblo West; her sister, Lennie (Raymond) Pfaffenhauser of Walsenburg, Colorado; her daughters, Kelli (Greg) Kennedy of Colorado Springs and Lisa (Richard) Persons of Pueblo West; her five grandchildren, Trevor, Ryan, Travis, Sean and Tristan; numerous nieces, nephews and cousins; and many wonderful and dedicated friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, Leonard and Alice Hainlen, her brother Billy Hainlen, her first husband Pete Langoni and Pete's mother and father, Clara and Pete Langoni, who also served as grandparents to Kelli and Lisa.

Karen did not want a traditional funeral service and chose to be cremated. With respect for her wishes, a Celebration of Life will be held on February 9, 2019, at 11:00 am, at King of Kings Lutheran Church, 2561 Vinewood Lane, Pueblo, Colorado. A catered reception will follow at the church. In lieu of flowers, we will honor Karen's love for children and animals and request memorial donations be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital; Shriners Hospital for Children; or Paws for Life animal shelter at 800 N. Pueblo Blvd, Pueblo, Colorado, 81003.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

FEB 9. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (MT)

King of Kings Lutheran Church
2561 Vinewood Lane
Pueblo, CO 81005

Reception

FEB 9. 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM (MT)

King of Kings Lutheran Church
2561 Vinewood Lane
Pueblo, CO 81005

Tribute Wall

PP

“ I just came across the notice of Karen's passing. I am so sorry to hear that she is no longer spreading her sunshine here on Earth. Karen was always a wonderful neighbor and friend to my mother, Esther Tomczak, when Mom and Dad moved to Buena Vista. The one biggest regret upon moving to Elko to be with us, was that Mom was leaving her good friend. Well, now Karen and Mom can meet again and share so many good recipes like they did back then. I still use Karen's pumpkin bread recipe that Mom shared with me. May God bless you and keep you all and strengthen all of you with so many good memories and knowing how many lives Karen touched.

Patty and John Pason, Elko, Nevada.

Patty Pason - March 21, 2019 at 11:49 AM

DH

“ Gary, We just learned of Karens passing. Maureen and I are sorry for your loss. We have many great memories of when you lived in Buena Vista. I think the last time we saw you was at my retirement. May God bless and keep you in your time of sorrow. Dean and Maureen Harrow - Buena Vista.

Dean and Maureen Harrow - February 23, 2019 at 02:11 PM

EB

“ For Gary Neet...Gary, I read a wonderful obituary on you wife, Karen! Just wanted to write and say I'm sorry for your loss. Eric Brookens, Colorado Springs

Eric Brookens - February 09, 2019 at 10:56 AM

CT

“ Farewell. fellow classmate. (1961). Rest easy in the comfort of our Savior's arms. Carol Duckworth Tucek

Carol Tucek - February 06, 2019 at 06:24 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Pueblo West Funeral Home and Crematory - January 30, 2019 at 04:30 PM

ST

“ *My sincere condolences to Gary & the family. Stro*

Strobridge - January 22, 2019 at 12:44 PM

DN

“ *Dottie Neet lit a candle in memory of Karen Jen Neet*



Dottie Neet - January 20, 2019 at 08:21 PM

DN

“ *You were such a cool lady and that lives in in your beautiful daughters and grandchildren. How, I longed to get to spend more time with you. You were there for me when I needed someone the most. I love you and wish I could be there to celebrate your amazing life and contributions to this world.*

Dottie Neet - January 20, 2019 at 08:20 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karen Jen Neet.*



January 20, 2019 at 08:14 PM