



Karen Lee Kerns

November 2, 2013

Karen Lee Kerns, 56 of St. Petersburg, passed away Saturday, November 2, 2013. She grew up in Port Clinton, Ohio and graduated from Port Clinton High School Class of 1975. She was a swimmer on the synchronized swim team. She was also Port Clinton's Fire Department Festival Reining Queen of 1973. She was passionate about horses and dogs and loved her dog Khloe and was very seldom seen without her. Karen is survived by her loving husband, Richard; daughters: Kelly Garren and her partner, Carl Mikell; Whitney Schaeffer and her husband, Branden; she is the loving grandmother of Kailey Mikell; two brothers, two sisters, nieces and nephews. She was loved and will be missed by all her family and friends. Karen worked at Paradyne, ECI and Honeywell for almost 25 years and most recently at Southeastern Guide Dog. She was certified dog trainer and field service rep., animal lover and found joy in finding homes for unwanted dogs. We will miss you and will always keep you in our hearts. Love You! The family will receive friends at the funeral home Friday, November 8, 2013 from 2 P.M until service time at 4 P.M.

Tribute Wall



“ *The family of Karen Lee Kerns uploaded a photo*

August 19, 2019 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dee Henderson - SEGD Graduate posted a condolence I had only been with Karen one time but felt an instant connection with her. She seemed like the sort of person who made friends everywhere she went. The world was definitely a better place with her in it. I pray daily that God will comfort all of you. Dee*

Dee Henderson - SEGD Graduate - December 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ *Debbie Cirusuolo - SEGD graduate Friend posted a condolence So sorry for your loss, Karen was the first person I met when I decided to get a guide dog. She was the perfect person to come out and see me for my home interview. Even though this was our first time meeting, I felt so comfortable with her, her smile was so heart warming. I was so nervous and in tears, she gave me a big hug, and reassured me that I was making a good decision to get a guide dog, that I would love it, my confidence and independence would grow. She also greeted me at school when I went to train with my guide. I knew she was a very special person, just from the few visits I had with her. I cant imagine the grief her family is going thru, but I just wanted to let them know that she had touched me in a very special way, even though it was brief.*

Debbie Cirusuolo - SEGD graduate Friend - December 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Joy Gerlaugh - Friend that is crushed posted a condolence I can't believe this I just heard,,,I spoke with her a month ago we talked for an hour. I just can't believe this I didn't get to say good by. Rick please call 727 224-7979.

Joy Gerlaugh - Friend that is crushed - November 22, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TO

“ Teachers from Our Savior Lutheran School - Friends from OSLS posted a condolence With heartfelt condolences we are wishing you peace to bring comfort,courage to face the days ahead and loving memories to forever hold in your hearts. We pray the love of God enfold you Rick, Kelly, Carl, Whitney, Branden and Kailey. Please know we are here to support you in any way possible. All our love, thoughts and prayers.

Teachers from Our Savior Lutheran School - Friends from OSLS - November 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Jessica & Phet - Family friend posted a condolence Words can't express how truly saddened we are for the loss of such a great person taken so soon. I will never forget the sound of Karens laugh and how infectious her smile could be. She will truly be missed. We are thankful for all of the happy memories we were all able to share that we will never forget. Our thoughts and prayers are with you Rick, Kelly, and Whitney...

Jessica & Phet - Family friend - November 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ *Sally L Armendinger - Friend posted a condolence Karen was a vibrant and passionate person. I know Rick and his family will always feel her love with them. She loved helping animals and it gave her life a new and wonderful purpose. I'm glad to remember her-- so happy at her daughter's wedding!!!!*

Sally L Armendinger - Friend - November 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ *Sally L Armendinger - Friend posted a condolence So sorry that Rick and his family have to bear the loss of their loved one. Karen was exciting to be around --- she was a passionate and loving person to her family and gentle and wonderful with her devotion to her dogs and helping to pave the way for people to help dogs and dogs to help people. We have to think---helping animals the way she did -they also helped her make her life more full of purpose. I can't think of a better way to earn her place in Heaven.*

Sally L Armendinger - Friend - November 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RN

“ *Ron & Barbara Cherry - Neighbor posted a condolence We were pulling for Karen's recovery all the way. Rest easy knowing that she is now at peace in the arms of Our God. Life is a gift and we live each day as if it could be our last. Karen was full of life and gave a happy friendly feeling to those around her. We have enjoyed having her and her lovely family as neighbors for years. We have watched Karen and Rick grow in their loving marriage and watched the growth of Kelly and Whitney through the years. It sometimes seem like only yesterday that they were playing house in their tree. Karen will be missed. May she rest in loving peace until we all meet again in God's Kingdom. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family.*

Ron & Barbara Cherry - Neighbor - November 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Debra & Chuck Hietala - volunteer / freind posted a condolence We are so sorry for your loss. We always admired how Karen did what so few of us have the courage to do follow our passion. We were so proud of her when after starting as a volunteer puppy raiser she decided to change careers and become a trainer. Everyone in the Guide Dog community has suffered a huge loss. We will be forever grateful for the time we were able to work with her as a volunteer puppy raiser and as a trainer.

Debra & Chuck Hietala - volunteer / freind - November 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ Kathy Risch - friend posted a condolence My heart goes out to Rick and his entire family. Karen was a fun loving person. Her laugh would light up a room. She gave dogs a new meaning in life. I feel privileged to have known her. I will never forget all the memories that we shared together, she will be sorely missed R.I.P. Karen we love you. your friend Kathy

Kathy Risch - friend - November 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Suzanne - friend posted a condolence Rick and family. I am so sorry to hear about your loss. A life taken too soon. Karen was an amazing person whose love for her family and animals generated through her beautiful smile. She will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with your family during this difficult time.

Suzanne - friend - November 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Mary & Ted - Friend posted a condolence Words can't begin to express the ache in our hearts. Just keep remembering all the good times we shared. That can never be taken from us. We had a lot of fun in the short time Karen was here. We will always remember her.

Mary & Ted - Friend - November 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SJ

“ Sarah & Chuck McDonald - friend of Joel's posted a condolence Chuck and I wish to send our condolences to all of Karen's family especially Kelly and her daughter.

Sarah & Chuck McDonald - friend of Joel's - November 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ Carly (Mellott)LaFore - Family friend posted a condolence Rick, Whitney, and Kelly- you guys are in our thoughts & prayers.

Carly (Mellott)LaFore - Family friend - November 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ David Bowen - Friend posted a condolence I'm in shock and can't believe that she is gone. She was a really great person and a good friend for many years while we worked together at Paradyne and Honeywell. I'm so saddened for the family and their loss.

David Bowen - Friend - November 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Denise Graff - friend posted a condolence Karen was one of my best friends at Honeywell. We worked together for many years. She was a great person. She will be missed.

Denise Graff - friend - November 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ *SCHAU - FRIEND posted a condolence MY THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU. SHE WILL BE MISSED BY ALL.*

SCHAU - FRIEND - November 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ *Beth - Family Friend posted a condolence To Karen's family, I would like to offer my sympathy and prayers to your entire family for your loss. I am a co-worker and friend of Karen's niece, Monica. God Bless Karen and let her rest in peace and God bless your family and help you get through this difficult time.*

Beth - Family Friend - November 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ *Diane Anderson - Puppy Raiser posted a condolence Karen was a wonderful person who followed her passion and I honor her for that. She was a wonderful puppy raiser and guide dog trainer and will be sorely missed. I and my husband, Glenn, send loving thoughts and prayers to Karen's family and friends who, we know, will miss her terribly.*

Diane Anderson - Puppy Raiser - November 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ *Debbie Bedillion - Neighbor & Co-worker posted a condolence I knew Karen for many years both as a neighbor and co-worker at Honeywell. She will be sorely missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing her. My thoughts and prayers are with her family.*

Debbie Bedillion - Neighbor & Co-worker - November 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

IF

“ Ian High - Family Friend posted a condolence I will always keep fond memories of our family trips to the beach as a kid. Karen was a wonderful person and will be sorely missed. My deepest condolences to Rick, Whitney, and Kelly.

Ian High - Family Friend - November 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ Linda - Work posted a condolence I was shocked when I read the news of her passing. Besides being a co-worker at Honeywell I also considered her a friend. I loved it when she started training dogs and would bring them to work. She was in her element then. To Rick and family - my heart is saddened and I send up prayers for all of you. We should never question God as to why (even though it is hard not to) but always be thankful for the time you had.

Linda - Work - November 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Duane Peterson - Friend/Co-worker posted a condolence My condolences to the family. Karen, we will miss you.

Duane Peterson - Friend/Co-worker - November 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ JEAN CIACELLI - Friend of Family posted a condolence Dear Family - Please accept our sincere sympathy for your loss. May God Bless you at this difficult time. Fondly, The Jean Ciacelli Family Catawba-Port Clinton, OH

JEAN CIACELLI - Friend of Family - November 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KW

“ *Katie Perez - Co worker posted a condolence I was so deeply saddened to hear of Karen's passing. I was fortunate to spend a few years at Southeastern with her and enjoyed her immensely. My heart felt condenses to your entire family. I am appreciative for the time I was able to spend with Karen. Although it has been a few years since I have seen Karen, I can still hear her infectious laugh. Sending many prayers to your entire family.*

Katie Perez - Co worker - November 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ *Branden - son-in-law posted a condolence Karen you fought so hard for 10 days and never gave up. We are so glad we got to spend every second with you during those 10 days. It is going to be crazy to imagine life without you. I am blessed that you gave me one of the greatest presents that anyone could and every day I look at her I will always remember you and all the good times we all had together. I should be able to tell you all of these things in person instead of over a funeral website but we can not control life. All I can do is be thankful for the times we did spend together like the whole wedding planning process. You had a true gift from God with dogs and I always admired how you could train them and turn them into these great guide dogs that were such a big part of peoples lives. There will never be a day that goes by that I wont think of you even if its when I am shoveling waffle's poop. You will be missed greatly love Branden.*

Branden - son-in-law - November 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ Keith Bedillion - Friend posted a condolence I'm just left with an empty feeling inside. Karen was a neighbor for many years, a co-worker for many years but most of all she was a very close special friend. I am at a total loss for words. She was taken from this earth way too early. I am going to miss her very much. I will remember fondly that times we had together. My heartfelt prayers go out to her husband Rick and all of the family. I know there is a special place in heaven for Karen and I will always cherish the time we had together on this earth. I will always remember her laugh, her smile and her love for her family. She will always have a very special place all her own in my heart. Rest in Peace Karen and thank you for your wonderful friendship, it will be cherished for the rest of my days and I promise you will never be forgotten. I will miss you very very much. I love you sweetie.....

Keith Bedillion - Friend - November 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Julie Bielicki - Friend posted a condolence Rick, Kelly, Whitney and Family. I am so sad to hear about the loss of Karen. I am so sorry for your loss. She was such a dear friend and a great loving person. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Julie Bielicki - Friend - November 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ Dan - work posted a condolence What a great loss! I am blessed that I got to be a friend to her she loved her family and she was so easy to talk to. MY heart goes out to Whitney and her husband and the rest of the family.

Dan - work - November 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ *Barbara Humpal - Friend posted a condolence Dear Rick and family, we are so Saddened by your Loss, In time, may you find comfort and peace. Your family is in our prayers and thoughts. Barbara, David, Jillian, Jeffrey*

Barbara Humpal - Friend - November 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LP

“ *Leesa - PATIENT/FRIEND posted a condolence WE WILL MISS HER SMILE,,,at our office... Karen and her family have been coming here for over 20 years.. One time she brought a lab she was training it was so sweet..just laid by her chair...Karen was blessed with the gift of training and loving animals...*

Leesa - PATIENT/FRIEND - November 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ *Tracy Salomone - Friend posted a condolence Rick, My family and I are so sorry to hear about your loss. We will keep you and your family in our prayers.*

Tracy Salomone - Friend - November 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ *Sandi - co-worker posted a condolence We are so saddened by this news. My heart goes out to Whitney, Brandon, Karen's husband Rick, and her other daughter and granddaughter. Karen loved her family dearly. I can just hear her laugh now. She will be truly missed!*

Sandi - co-worker - November 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ Jennifer Kilmurray - work posted a condolence *What a terrific, unforgettable woman. I will miss most Karen's infectious laugh. Her passion for working with guide dogs, and the many people she helped team up with those beautiful dogs are mourning her loss and are better for knowing her. My condolences to her family. Karen spoke of you all often, with love.*

Jennifer Kilmurray - work - November 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ Suzy - friend & co-worker posted a condolence *Karen will be deeply missed by many. She was one of a kind and I will never forget her. She was my Mrs. Awesome! My thoughts and prayers go out to her family.*

Suzy - friend & co-worker - November 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ Sylvia Mc Chesney - fellow puppy raiser posted a condolence *So sorry for your loss. Karen raised Tie from SEGDI for the first 18 months and I finished him for the next 6months. I have a beautiful picture of Karen with Tie I took at the walkathon one year. If I can find it I will send it along with others.*

Sylvia Mc Chesney - fellow puppy raiser - November 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SV

“ *suzette Williams - volunteer posted a condolence Thank you Karen for your mentorship and never ending belief that everything was possible. You made a difference in my life!*

suzette Williams - volunteer - November 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM