



## Karolyn Degraffenreid

September 3, 1951 - April 8, 2023

Karolyn (Murray) Degraffenreid departed this life early Saturday morning, April 8, 2023, at her home surrounded by her family after a valiant fight against breast cancer. Karolyn was born on September 3, 1951, to Delbert and Eva (Dewitt) Murray in Springfield, MO. She attended Bolivar schools where she graduated in 1969.

In 1969, she married Kenny Degraffenreid, and to this union were born her pride and joys – her 7 children – all starting with the letter “K” of course. You could find Karolyn at every school party, assembly, concert, and sporting event that her kids were involved in. In later years, that involvement carried into the lives of her 16 grandchildren, to whom she was lovingly known as Nana.

Karolyn was a worker all of her life. She spent years working on the family farm, worked at Polk County Bank, gave several years working in nursing facilities, and opened her home to watch hundreds of children. She was a mom and nana to everyone she met and made sure anyone who crossed her path felt loved. Even as her sickness progressed, she worried about everyone else being taken care of, and wanted to be sure her loved ones were happy.

She was an avid baker and the very best cook. No one made cookies and breakfast casseroles like Miss Karolyn, and she passed her love for being in

the kitchen on to her kids and grandkids. Karolyn loved the St. Louis Cardinals, and one of her last outings was to a game. But, of course, her favorite teams were those her kids and grandkids were part of.

She loved to be outside camping and mowing her grass, even when it wasn't ready to cut. She sewed and crocheted many beautiful gifts that hundreds of families around Bolivar still have. Her love language was to give to others, and with every talent she had, that's what she did.

Karolyn was a member of the First Christian Church in Bolivar, MO. But she would attend anywhere her family wanted to go. There was nothing more important to her than spending time with her family, and she lived that every day.

Karolyn is survived by her 7 children: Kendra (Bill) Cusick of Kansas City, MO; Krista (Scott) Sherman of Dardenne Prairie, MO; Kasey (Dan) Bourk of Prairie Village, KS; Korey (Kayla) of Bolivar, MO; Kody (Lindsey) of Bolivar, MO; Kandace (Robert) Tosh of Bolivar, MO; and Kaleigh (Lyle) Dietrich of Bolivar, MO. She is also survived by 16 grandkids: Finn Cusick, Hannah Grace Sherman, Lane Taylor, Maddison and Drake Durham, Gunner Degraffenreid, Kaden, Kanyon, and Laynie Degraffenreid, Shelbea, Raelea, Brylea, and Riggin Tosh, Hendrix, and Cyrus Dietrich, and one great-grandchild, Madden. She is also survived by her brother Ken (Tanafra) Murray, and a sister, Kathy Drake.

She also had numerous nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her parents, a brother-in-law, Larry Drake, and a dear lifelong friend, Dorothy Isdell.

Karolyn will be missed by everyone who knew her. To know her was to love her, and she made an impact on each person she met. There is peace in

knowing she is no longer in pain and resting in the arms of Jesus. We know we will see her again someday, and she will be waiting with open arms to welcome us to her new home, just like she always welcomed everyone to her earthly home. No doubt she will be waiting with her baked goods, burnt Chex mix, and breakfast casserole, and watching Cardinals baseball until we get there, enjoying being outside every moment of every day. Karolyn loved with every ounce of her being, and that will live on in the generations behind.

Funeral services for Karolyn will be held at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at Butler Funeral Home in Bolivar. A visitation will be held on Tuesday Night, April 11, 2023, at the funeral home from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Children's Miracle Network, or to the Breast Cancer Foundation of the Ozarks.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 11. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Butler Funeral Home - Bolivar  
407 E. Broadway  
Bolivar, MO 65613  
(417) 326-5233  
<https://butlerfuneralhome.com/>

## Funeral Service

APR 12. 1:00 PM (CT)

Butler Funeral Home - Bolivar  
407 E. Broadway  
Bolivar, MO 65613  
(417) 326-5233  
<https://butlerfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Karolyn Degraffenreid*

October 05, 2023 at 05:18 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karolyn Degraffenreid.*



April 12, 2023 at 09:40 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Karolyn Degraffenreid.*



April 11, 2023 at 08:39 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Karolyn Degraffenreid.*



April 11, 2023 at 07:14 PM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Karolyn Degraffenreid.*



April 11, 2023 at 05:45 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karolyn Degraffenreid.*



April 11, 2023 at 05:10 PM



“ *Collins, Scott and Ryoko Kirchhoff purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Karolyn Degraffenreid.*



**Collins, Scott and Ryoko Kirchhoff** - April 11, 2023 at 01:01 PM



“ *Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Karolyn Degraffenreid.*



April 11, 2023 at 12:15 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Karolyn Degraffenreid.



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April 11, 2023 at 02:18 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Karolyn Degraffenreid.



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April 10, 2023 at 11:55 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Karolyn Degraffenreid.



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April 10, 2023 at 07:00 PM



“ *Serene Retreat* was purchased for the family of Karolyn Degraffenreid.



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April 10, 2023 at 05:49 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karolyn Degraffenreid.*



April 10, 2023 at 04:18 PM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karolyn Degraffenreid.*



April 10, 2023 at 03:46 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Karolyn Degraffenreid.*



April 10, 2023 at 03:27 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Karolyn Degraffenreid.*



April 10, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Karolyn Degraffenreid.*



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April 10, 2023 at 01:21 PM



“ *Heather Ankrom purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Karolyn Degraffenreid.*



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**Heather Ankrom** - April 10, 2023 at 12:51 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Karolyn Degraffenreid.*



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April 10, 2023 at 12:42 PM



“ *Kenneth: Just want you to know that I'm thinking of you during this sad time. It's so hard to lose a sister. Linda York*

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**linda c york** - April 10, 2023 at 12:25 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Karolyn Degraffenreid.*



April 10, 2023 at 12:02 PM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karolyn Degraffenreid.*



April 10, 2023 at 11:29 AM



“ *From your work family at Colliers purchased the Tender Tribute for the family of Karolyn Degraffenreid.*



**From your work family at Colliers - April 10, 2023 at 11:19 AM**



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Karolyn Degraffenreid.*



April 10, 2023 at 11:17 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Karolyn Degraffenreid.*



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April 09, 2023 at 02:00 PM



“ *I shared a hospital room with Karolyn when Krista was born. My daughter, Ginger, was born on October 23, 1973. I was so sorry to hear about Karolyn's passing. I was saddened to hear that breast cancer took her life. I, myself am a breast cancer survivor (2011). My thoughts and prayers are with your family. May God give you peace during this time. Wanda Hayward Meador*

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**Wanda Hayward Meador** - April 09, 2023 at 10:12 AM



*Wanda,*

*Thank you for your kind words. I am so happy you are a survivor! Our family will pray for you!*

*Love,*

*Kasey Bourk (#3 of Karolyn's K's)*

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**Kasey Bourk** - April 30, 2023 at 11:09 PM



“ *I remember Karolyn driving all of us youth group kids to Silver Dollar City one day. She was so fun, calm, and hilarious! That day will always stick out in my mind when I think of her. Praying for the family!*

*Lacey (York) Kinzer*

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**Lacey Kinzer (York)** - April 08, 2023 at 08:10 PM

KB

*Thank you Lacey!*

**Kasey Bourk** - April 30, 2023 at 11:12 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Karolyn Degraffenreid.*



April 08, 2023 at 07:32 PM