



Karen Marie Berkhofer

November 10, 1938 - March 7, 2014

BERKHOFER, Karen Marie (Ipsen), 75, died on Friday, March 7, 2014, surrounded by family at her home in South Charleston, Ohio. She was born November 10, 1938, in Denver, eldest child of the late Ben and Josephine (Phelan) Ipsen. She married her husband of 44 years, George Henry Berkhofer IV, on February 15, 1969, in Springfield, Ohio, and he preceded her in death Dec. 7, 2013.

She is survived by her three devoted children: Elizabeth (Greg) Altman of Springfield, Ohio; Julia (Ben) Sutherly of Troy, Ohio; and George (Samantha) Berkhofer V of Springfield, Ohio; three grandchildren: Ella Josephine Berkhofer, Joseph Henry Sutherly, and Daniel Lincoln Sutherly; sister, Marilyn (Ipsen) Walters of Aurora, Colo.; brothers Dennis (Carolyn) Ipsen of Aurora, Colo.; Stephen (Michelle Rainbolt) Ipsen of Littleton, Colo.; and Brian (Cynthia) Ipsen of Aurora, Colo.; brother-in-law Thomas Jordan of Gainesville, Fla.; three nieces; and two nephews.

She also was preceded in death Dec. 28, 2013, by a sister, Janet (Ipsen) Jordan.

Raised in Denver, Karen in 1956 joined the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, earning her undergraduate degree in education at the College of Mount St. Joseph. For a time, she taught at St. Joseph's Elementary School in

Springfield, and returned to Clark County in 1968 after leaving the convent.

Karen served Clark and Champaign counties over the next 38 years as a beloved educator, primarily at Miami View Elementary School in her adopted hometown of South Charleston from 1970 to 1997. During that time, she earned her master's of education administration at the University of Dayton, later serving as principal at St. Mary School in Urbana from 1997 to 2003. She then returned to Miami View before retiring in 2006. But she continued to tutor students through her business, "Chalk 'N' Keys."

Devoted to her Catholic faith her entire life, she served as organist at St. Charles Borromeo Church in South Charleston for 43 years and St. Patrick Church in London for three years. She gave piano lessons to hundreds of students in South Charleston and at Wittenberg University's School of Community Education.

Often told that she was a favorite teacher, Karen worked tirelessly to engage all of her students, but she excelled at reaching out to the at-risk and disregarded. From an early age, when she "taught" her younger siblings, she never considered another vocation. Her resilience, kindness, and good humor endeared her to all who knew her.

She was a member of the Lagonda Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Springfield and South Charleston dulcimer clubs, the South Charleston Heritage Commission, the Catholic Ladies of Columbia, and the South Charleston Monday Night Club.

Visitation will be from 5 pm to 7 pm on Friday, March 14 at INGLING WILLIAMS & LEWIS FUNERAL HOME – South Charleston. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 am on Saturday, March 15, at St. Charles Catholic Church, South Charleston followed by burial at St. Charles Borromeo

Cemetery. Condolences may be expressed at www.jacksonlytle.com.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the "Karen Berkhofer Fund" at Heifer International by calling 855-948-6437 or visiting www.heifer.org.

Cemetery Details

St. Charles Catholic Cemetery

S. Charleston, OH

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 14. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Ingling Williams & Lewis Funeral Home, South Charleston, Ohio
24 North Chillicothe Street
South Charleston, OH 45368
(937) 399-2811
info@jacksonlytle.com

Service

MAR 15. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church
South Charleston, OH

Tribute Wall

DI

“ Karen was the eldest of 6 children in our family. As the first child she was always my father's favorite and when she went off to the convent our Irish Catholic parents were overjoyed. She was only 18 when she went away and my father wrote weekly letters to his homesick and lonely child. I wish I had those letters now. Whenever we went on vacation when I was a child you can bet we traveled through Ohio to see Karen.

There was 22 years between Karen's birth and my youngest brother's. In some ways I always regretted that we missed out on so many family things with her when I was growing up.

But Karen always was a part of the family and after I was married I knew I was always welcome to come and visit her family in Ohio.

The best two family gatherings where the whole group got together were in Ohio for her son George and later her daughter Julia's weddings.

The family will miss the warmth and love of our dear sister. She has gone to join her husband and our parents in eternal rest.

Dennis Ipsen - March 13, 2014 at 06:23 PM

BO

“ Karen and I made our First Communion at the same time and we graduated from Cathedral High School together in 1956.. She was always the excellent student with a witty sense of humor. I am happy she had such a rich and rewarding life. She will be in my prayers.

Bernie O'Neill - March 12, 2014 at 06:38 PM

MD

“ Prayers go out to the family and friends of Mrs. Berkhofer. She was my teacher in elementary school. I really enjoyed having her as a teacher and when my oldest son was in high school he had her as a substitute teacher. Mrs. Berkhofer was a wonderful person and I really enjoyed her.in school. Prayers are with you guys Mitzi (Stewart) Daniels



Mitzi (Stewart) Daniels - March 11, 2014 at 07:38 PM

KR

“ Karen enlisted me to be a volunteer at St. Mary School in Urbana. I worked in the Library. I loved the job and I loved working with Karen. She was so much fun and so smart. I think she was the principal who started the kids playing Chess. It was fantastic to see all the kids, from the first grade up, sitting on the floor and playing chess. She expected the best from them and so they gave her their best.

I always stayed after school, because I enjoyed talking with Karen. She was never in a hurry even though she had a long drive ahead of her. I worked for a while after Karen left St. Marys but it was never the same. She knew each child well. She was firm but always kind and usually injected a little humor into her admonitions. She was a super principal and a wonderful, good hearted and lovable person. She left us so too soon. . She had so much left to do and people to help. Her family and friends will always miss her but know they have someone in Heaven to look over them. Kathy Ryan

Kathy Ryan - March 11, 2014 at 12:11 PM