



Karen L. O'Brien

February 22, 1945 - January 2, 2010

Karen Hein O'Brien died peacefully at home on January 2, 2010 after a long illness of pancreatic cancer. She was 64. Karen was born in Kimball, Nebraska, on February 22, 1945 to Charles and Dorothy Hein. After attending Kimball schools, she continued her education at Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln, Nebraska. She was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority. She married her high school sweetheart, Larry, May 29, 1965 and moved to Colorado in 1967. Before retiring she worked as a pre-school teacher, a Hospice receptionist, and as an orthodontic dental assistant. She mostly enjoyed being with her grandchildren, family get-togethers and walking her dog Zoe. She also liked movies, making jewelry, reading, and breakfasts out. She had recently reconnected with high school friends and enjoyed their reunions. Survivors include her dad, Charles Hein of Loveland; her husband, Larry of Windsor; sons and their spouses, Jeff & Tarren of Centennial and Steve & Aubrey of Aurora; five grandchildren, Trevor, Ellie, Lindsey, Conor and Emma, all of whom adored her. Also her sister, Barb and Gary Pennington of Ashland, Wisconsin; her brother, Don and Ginger Hein of Arvada; her niece, Dana Pennington of Minneapolis; and nephew, Andy and Kris Pennington of Madison, Wisconsin; plus many friends, cousins, and other family members. She was preceded in death by her mother, Dorothy, and a nephew, Tim. She will be remembered for always smiling and celebrating the best in other people. She was always happy when her friends and family obtained their life goals. A Memorial Celebration is being planned for 11:00

a.m. on Saturday, at Bohlender Funeral Chapel in Fort Collins. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Pathways Hospice, in care of Bohlender Funeral Chapel.

Tribute Wall

JB

“ Larry and family.. We just arrived back in town this weekend only to learn of Karen's death. We are so very sorry for all of you. What a horribly difficult time you have all had, and please know we have thought of you all so much and know that brighter days are ahead. Karen certainly gave a lot of love and fond memories to so many. She will be missed. We are sorry for your pain and loss. Love to you all, Jane and Jeff

Jane and Jeff Boulter - January 17, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Dear Larry and family, We have been out of the country for the past 2 weeks and were saddened to hear about Karen from Larry Wooden upon our return. Nevertheless, our condolences go out to you and the family. All our best. John and Karen Strasheim

John Strasheim - January 15, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ Larry, Jeff, & Steven, May it comfort you to know how many caring thoughts are with you at this sad time. We have happy memories of the parties we shared with you on Luke Street.

Ron & JoAnn Sisson - January 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ Larry, I'm so sorry to hear of Karen's passing. You and your family have my deepest sympathies. Time will eventually ease the pain, but will never erase your precious and loving memories. I'm so thankful I was able to see both of you at the Kimball reunion. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Warm regards, Larry

Larry Wooden - January 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ Larry and the O'Brien family, I am so sorry for your loss and the pain you are going through with the loss of Karen. The good people in life seem to be here way to short a time, but their lessons will live on in all your love for her. Best to you and the family and friends in this very difficult time. Blakes

Gary Blakeslee - January 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ Although we did not know Karen personally, as Aunt & Uncle of Gary & Barb we share in your sorrow & are praying for peace & strength for all the family.

Marv & Laura Green - January 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TL

“ Larry: Mary Ellen and I are saddened by your loss of Karen. We know both of you have had a very difficult time for several years, and she is in a better place today. Please share our condolences with your family. Tom and Mary Ellen Luttenegger

Tom Luttenegger - January 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BG

“ Larry, I was so sorry to read about Karen in the newspaper. Please know my thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time of loss. I probably won't make it to the memorial service because I have been sick myself but will be there in spirit. Karen was such a nice person. I have often wondered how you all were doing since leaving PVH. Condolences to you and your entire family. Betsy Groom

Betsy Groom - January 06, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SO

“ Dear Larry and Don, Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers concerning your loss of Karen. It's sad that Karen is no longer with you, but you have good memories and she is now finally at peace. God give you the strength you need at this difficult time. Warmest regards, Susan O'Neal

Susan O'Neal - January 05, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ Larry, Jeff and Steven- I am so sorry that Karen has passed. I am certain she is at peace and all of her suffering is gone. I will always treasure my Luke St. memories-babysitting Jeff and Steven, walking dogs and backyard parties. May God provide grace and love during this difficult time. Your heart breaks but more love and empathy enter and make you a different but better person-another gift Karen has left you. My prayers are with you. Blessings-JillBlazekRonen

Jill Ronen - January 05, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LR

“ Larry and Family, Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers. Galene Bushor emailed me about Karen's passing. I am so glad that I had seen you at the reunion. I pray that the many memories you have of her will bring your comfort in the coming days. I still miss Tom very much, but am peace knowing that he is in a better place and whole again. Just as Karen is. Best wishes. Linda Robinson Rutz

Linda Robinson Rutz - January 05, 2010 at 12:00 AM