



## Karen Anne (Vail) Butler

August 14, 1951 - June 11, 2021

LUNENBURG - Karen Anne (Vail) Butler, 69, of Lunenburg, passed away on Friday, June 11, 2021 after a courageous battle with cancer, surrounded by loved ones who will continue to honor her legacy by living their lives to the fullest.

Born in Hempstead, NY on August 14, 1951, Karen was one of four siblings born to the late Charles and Clare A. (Moore) Vail. She attended West Boylston Middle/High School and graduated with the Class of 1969.

After graduating high school, Karen pursued a career in nursing. She enrolled to Fitchburg State University where she received her Bachelor's and became a Registered Nurse. Karen spent her career in nursing in the local area, including time spent with Burbank Hospital, Montachusett Home Care, Health Alliance Leominster Hospital, and retired last year from Fallon Health Care in Worcester. Her colleagues have shared that Karen was known for her "heart of gold" – always taking the time to visit with patients, hold their hand if that is what they needed, and listen to their stories and concerns.

Outside of her career, Karen was dedicated to her family. She never missed a game (and there were many), dance recital, band concert, play, student banquet, car wash or spaghetti supper! Karen was an avid reader and instilled a love of books in her children and grandchildren. She also loved to travel –

her last trip before her illness was to Ireland for the wedding of her niece.

Karen is lovingly survived by her son Derrick P. Butler and his wife Paula of Leominster; her daughter, Kristine M. Pelletier and her husband Steve of Stow; her siblings, Charles Vail, Jr. of Holland, and Kevin Vail of Chelmsford; she is also survived by her two stepsons, David A. Butler, Jr. and his wife Jaqueline of Leominster, Charles B. Butler of Chelsea, eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, Karen was predeceased earlier this year by her beloved husband of 47 years, David A. Butler, and her brother, Kenneth Vail.

A Funeral Mass will be held in the St. Boniface Parish, 817 Massachusetts Ave., Lunenburg, on Friday, June 18, 2021 at 11 AM. Relatives and friends are invited to attend calling hours at Anderson Funeral Home, 25 Fitchburg Road, Ayer on Thursday, June 17, 2021 from 4-7PM.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Karen's memory to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Anthony's Cemetery

Shaker Road  
Shirley, MA

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

JUN 17. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Anderson Funeral Home - Ayer  
25 Fitchburg Road ~ Route 2A  
Ayer, MA 01432  
(978) 772-2355

## Funeral Mass

JUN 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Boniface Church  
Mass Ave  
Lunenburg, MA

# Tribute Wall

LJ

“ I had the privilege of knowing Karen and the great honor of calling her my friend. Karen and I worked together at Fallon Health and also visited members together at Heywood Wakefield Commons. I consider myself very fortunate to have witnessed Karen interact with members. Her compassionate and caring nature was unmatched. Please know that Karen truly made a difference in the lives of many others, and greatly touched my life as well.  
*Lisa Joyner*



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**Lisa Joyner** - June 18, 2021 at 10:14 PM

YF

“ Your SLTP friends and family, near and far purchased the Pink & White Mixed Fireside Basket for the family of Karen Anne (Vail) Butler.



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**Your SLTP friends and family, near and far** - June 15, 2021 at 09:40 PM

EG

“ I had the honor of working with Karen at Heywood Wakefield Commons Assisted Living in Gardner. She was very dedicated to her clients.

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**Ellen Gale** - June 15, 2021 at 07:29 AM

LV

“ Love Charlie and Trudy Vail purchased the Pink & White Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of Karen Anne (Vail) Butler.



Love Charlie and Trudy Vail - June 14, 2021 at 05:27 PM

YF

“ Your NEPC Family purchased the Shades of Purple for the family of Karen Anne (Vail) Butler.



Your NEPC Family - June 14, 2021 at 05:20 PM



“ Blue & White Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of Karen Anne (Vail) Butler.



June 14, 2021 at 04:39 PM