



Karen M. Handy

July 17, 1972 - December 27, 2021

LEOMINSTER- Karen M. Handy, 49, of Leominster, died December 27, 2021, at the UMass Memorial Hospital in Worcester, after battling systemic scleroderma for over 10 years. While an extremely painful and crippling disease, it never destroyed her optimistic spirit or her will to fight. Profoundly spiritual, Karen's faith in God comforted her to the very end.

Karen was born in Pittsfield, on July 17, 1972, a daughter of Barbara A. (Cozzolino) Handy and the late John N. Handy and graduated from Lunenburg High School in 1990 and Quinsigamond Community College in 1993.

Karen's passing has left an absence in our hearts that cannot be filled in this lifetime. She leaves her daughter, Emily M. Handy of Leominster; a brother, Christopher J. Handy and his spouse Maria of Lunenburg; a sister, Heather L. Handy and her spouse, Harley Stroh of Carbondale, CO; nieces and nephews Rebecca, Nathan, and Jessica Handy of Lunenburg, Stella and Jacob Stroh of Carbondale, her life partner William Comeau of Leominster, her step daughter Ella; aunts and uncles including Connie Rabideau of Northborough, Mark and Marie Matthews and John Bianco all of Pittsfield, Richard Peach of Cotuit, great-aunt Anne Gardina of Ghent, NY, and many cousins from all over the country, who were as close as sisters and brothers.

She is predeceased by her grandparents, Evelyn and John Handy and Michael and Carmella Cozzolino all of Pittsfield as well as aunts and uncles, Richard Rabideau, Bernie & Gloria Powers, Patricia Bianco all of Pittsfield,

Joan & Bert Cheevers of Westfield and Jean Peach of Springfield.

As a child and young adult, she was a figure skater known for her spins and for excelling at precision skating. Karen's team went on to compete in Nationals in Alaska. Prior to her illness, she had a twenty-year career as a Radiology Technician and Mammographer for the Fallon Clinic and Nashoba Valley Medical Center. Later she became a Reiki practitioner and dedicated her life to easing the suffering of others.

Throughout her life Karen was an inviting person who always made you feel at home. She enjoyed dancing and having fun with friends, family and whomever she was around. She took pride in her love for zodiac, reading others' horoscopes, crystals, and all things spiritual. She will be remembered fondly – and dearly missed – for her friendly personality, heartfelt wisdom, and inspirational conversations.

A Funeral Mass will be held on January 15th, 11:00AM at St. Cecilia's church in Leominster. The Anderson Funeral Home is assisting the family with the funeral arrangements. For further information or to leave an online condolence please visit their website at www.andersonfuneral.com.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Scleroderma Research Foundation. For more information or to donate please visit srfcure.org

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

JAN 15. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Cecelia's Church
Leominster, MA

Tribute Wall

CP

“ *Very sad to learn of Karen's passing. She was a sweet and caring person which goes back to our high school cheerleading days. My heartfelt condolences to the Handy family and beyond.* ”

Carolyn Palo - January 08, 2022 at 01:17 PM

AM

“ *Karen was such a wonderful, sweet person. I was her clinical instructor at Memorial and enjoyed her so much. She was hard-working and kind to her patients. She is now at peace after such a grueling disease. RIP my friend. 💔🥺* ”

Ann Marie - January 05, 2022 at 10:08 PM

LM

“ *You will be missed Karen, for so many years we sat at softball watching our girls play and so many wonderful chats and laughs. Bless you and your family, you truly were a whole hearted mom. Rest In Peace my friend 💕💕* ”

Lisa Maillet - January 05, 2022 at 06:52 PM

AT

“ *I have so many wonderful memories with Karen. ❤️ We became best friends while working at the movie theaters in our late teens. We had some great time during college ! She was also in my wedding. Karen was always that ray of sunshine on a dark and stormy day. She never had a bad word to say about anyone and always saw the good in everything. She will be greatly missed. Until we meet again my beautiful friend. ❤️* ”



Ann Tata - January 05, 2022 at 06:46 PM

TS

“ So very sorry to hear of Karen’s passing worked with her many, many years ago (teen to early 20’s) Thoughts sent to her family.

Tammy (Miner) Stott - January 05, 2022 at 06:13 PM

AM

“ Karen was such a wonderful person. Always wanting to make everyone feel good. She even went to my mothers house to do her Reiki. mom really felt better after she did it for her. Karen was full of life and adventure- ready to do anything for fun. She always looked incredible - clothes, makeup, hair - she was very aware of herself and how a person should present themselves. Everything she did in life in businesses and personal life was to make her friends and family feel better. We loved being around her!

Karen loved her daughter Emily, more than life itself - right up until her last moment - it was about having Emily taken care of!

You were there for your mom Emily , through the good and bad, and you should be very proud of yourself- as proud as your mom was of you.

Aunt Sandy and Uncle Rolamd Miller - January 04, 2022 at 07:49 PM

TI

“ I remember Karen always having a kind and gentle voice. Her spirit was warm and authentic and she will be missed. My deepest sympathies to your daughter Emily and the rest of your family.

Tiffany - January 04, 2022 at 07:46 PM

MA

“ *My most fond memory of Karen was her hospitality. Every single time I entered her house she made me feel like I was her own. She made sure to catch up on life, ask how the family is and not once let me leave without a hug. Such a beautiful soul*

mariah - January 04, 2022 at 05:57 PM