



Karen S. Hertz

November 4, 1956 - November 12, 2024

Karen Sue Hertz (née Brown), 68, of Sterling Heights, passed away peacefully at home on November 12, 2024, surrounded by her loving family. Born on November 4, 1956, in Warren, MI, Karen graduated from Warren Fitzgerald High School in 1974. In 1973, she met the love of her life, and they married on February 14, 1976. Together with her husband Dennis, Karen worked hard every day to build their family business, Service Towing, Inc. She loved being able to see her husband and boys each day at work and treasured her Friday night dinners with them at the shop.

Karen is survived by her devoted husband of 48 years, Dennis; her beloved sons Dennis (Theresa) and Matthew (Deanna); and her cherished grandchildren Ayden, Madisen, Brayden, and Hunter. She is also survived by her sister Deborah (Johnny), brother Thomas, and a host of in-laws, nieces, and nephews. Known affectionately as “mom” and “grandma” to many, Karen found immense joy in these roles, but especially cherished time with her grandchildren. She loved attending their games, school events and cheering them on in their endeavors, regardless of how far she had to travel. It brought her so much joy to spoil her grandkids and loved ones in any way that she could.

She is preceded in death by her son Kevin, sister Cynthia, and her parents Leonard and Darleen Brown, brother Dennis Lee and sister Denise Marie.

When their son Kevin was diagnosed with pediatric brain cancer, Karen transformed her grief into a lifelong mission of volunteering and fundraising for childhood cancer. Despite immense pain and challenges, she embraced the cancer community, connecting with people from coast to coast, some of whom became her closest friends. She raised awareness and supported cancer fundraising efforts while creating treasured family memories, traveling together, and showing Kevin all the beautiful places across North America. Even after Kevin's passing, Karen's resolve never wavered. She continued her mission in his honor, tirelessly volunteering for numerous charities and organizations, leaving a legacy of compassion and steadfast dedication.

Karen lived her life selflessly, always putting others before herself. She treasured her family above all, hosting holidays, celebrating and supporting her loved ones at every opportunity, and ensuring they were always cared for. Everyone around her knew she had a special gift as a "baby whisperer" and graciously snuggled any baby she could, loving to babysit and take care of little ones. She delighted in spending time with friends and traveling with her husband and sons. Together, they enjoyed their cabin on Lake Lancer in northern Michigan, going on boat rides, bingo nights, bowling, a good card game, and attending fundraisers to support families in need. Oftentimes, she was known for re-donating her auction and raffle winnings to the causes she supported and did this out of deep love in her heart, never seeking recognition for her generosity. For many years, she led a team in the Relay for Life to honor her son Kevin and took a sincere interest in supporting Benefit4Kids, a non-profit organization that supported her family during Kevin's illness. Karen also found great joy in her involvement with the FOP Christopher Wouter's Lodge 124 Women's Auxiliary Group.

Her warmth, generosity, strength, and unbiased support for others will be deeply missed. Though the world feels a little darker with Karen's passing, her

family finds solace in knowing she is reunited with her son Kevin, making Heaven a little brighter with her presence. Karen's legacy of love, dedication, and family will be remembered and cherished by all who knew her.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Karen's memory can be made to Benefit4Kids, a pediatric non-profit close to her heart, at <https://www.b4k.org/> . Founded in 1998, Benefit4Kids grants outdoor wishes to children with life-threatening and life-limited disabilities nationwide.

Cemetery Details

White Chapel Cemetery

621 West Long Lake Road
Troy, MI 48098

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 16. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. - Sterling Heights
3801 18 Mile Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48314
(586) 997-3838

Visitation

NOV 17. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. - Sterling Heights
3801 18 Mile Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48314
(586) 997-3838

Funeral Service

NOV 18. 10:30 AM (ET)

Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. - Sterling Heights
3801 18 Mile Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48314
(586) 997-3838

Tribute Wall

DB

“ I will cherish all the memories I have with Karen. Selling fireworks during the 4th of July. Going to the cider mills. Sitting with her having long talks. Your hugs I will hold on to them tight and the sound of your voice telling me “I love you girl”. You will be missed. Rip Karen fly with the angels.

Diane Barnhart - November 21, 2024 at 07:08 PM

GG

“ I am so sad to learn that Karen has passed away. Please accept my condolences and prayers for the family.

Gail Gruenburg - November 17, 2024 at 03:48 PM

CP

“ Chaney's, Confers, Magnan and Presleys purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Karen S. Hertz.



Chaney's, Confers, Magnan and Presleys - November 17, 2024 at 08:54 AM

RH

“ Regina Hertz lit a candle in memory of Karen S. Hertz



Regina Hertz - November 15, 2024 at 08:12 PM

LW

“ Love Patricia Sue Kolody and Karen Wale purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Karen S. Hertz.



Love Patricia Sue Kolody and Karen Wale - November 15, 2024 at 03:23 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karen S. Hertz.



November 15, 2024 at 02:32 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Karen S. Hertz.

November 15, 2024 at 02:32 PM

RI

“ Ronald I. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karen S. Hertz.

Ronald I. - November 15, 2024 at 02:08 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Karen S. Hertz.*



November 15, 2024 at 10:45 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Karen S. Hertz.

November 15, 2024 at 10:45 AM



“ *Jewells towing / steve - steven and crew purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Karen S. Hertz.*



Jewells towing / steve - steven and crew - November 14, 2024 at 10:56 PM



“ *Jewells towing / steve - steven and crew planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karen S. Hertz.*

Jewells towing / steve - steven and crew - November 14, 2024 at 10:56 PM

DT

“ Dan’s Towing purchased the *Simply Elegant Spat hiphyllum* for the family of Karen S. Hertz.



Dan’s Towing - November 14, 2024 at 10:34 PM

DT

“ Dan’s Towing planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karen S. Hertz.

Dan’s Towing - November 14, 2024 at 10:34 PM

BS

“ *It has been many years. But I still remember playing with Kevin in his big toy room! I always remember Karen as being so genuine and nice. We worked on her pool for a couple years. My brother and I always looked forward to stopping at Karen’s house. Always had a blast! Sending my deepest condolences. Heaven definitely gained another angel!*

Brandon Sylvester - November 14, 2024 at 06:07 PM

JF

“ *Karen was one of the nicest women I’ve had the pleasure of knowing. While working for Service Towing she trained me at the Madison Heights “Auto Pond” and we hit it off right away. She was very sweet to me and I’ll always remember the laughs we shared. Although I didn’t get to spend very much time with her, I am glad to have those memorable moments.*



Jennifer Foster - November 14, 2024 at 04:05 PM

NT

“ *Nehemiah Jamieson, J&M Towing purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Karen S. Hertz.*



Nehemiah Jamieson, J&M Towing - November 14, 2024 at 02:57 PM

NT

“ *Nehemiah Jamieson, J&M Towing planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karen S. Hertz.*

Nehemiah Jamieson, J&M Towing - November 14, 2024 at 02:57 PM

EP

“ *Mom (Karen) was absolutely amazing woman to all she meet! She seriously had the biggest heart and looked out for all us kids growing up while allowing us space to learn who we wanted to be! She opened her home to all of us at anytime even when I married and moved to Tx and wanted to visit the door was open! So many camps experiences together with Kevin and Matt, sleep overs with our brothers from another mother, Halloween, B4K and just hanging out. You will be missed but still in our hearts as helped mold so many of us into who we are today!*

Erin Presley - November 13, 2024 at 09:47 PM

TB

“ Karen was an absolutely beautiful person and we all loved her. She was always the kindest person to see and talk to. We definitely saw how much love she had for her family and friends. She will be missed but we know that she is resting comfortably now and being reunited with Kevin is making her heart full. We sent a \$75.00 donation in Karen's memory to B4K. Love and prayers to Dennis and family at this difficult time. Barb, Theresa and Sherry Oleyar.

Theresa Bonk - November 13, 2024 at 12:47 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Karen S. Hertz.



November 13, 2024 at 10:23 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Karen S. Hertz.

November 13, 2024 at 10:23 AM

RF

“ Rose & Steven DeLaTorre & Byrge Family purchased the Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses for the family of Karen S. Hertz.



Rose & Steven DeLaTorre & Byrge Family - November 13, 2024 at 09:34 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karen S. Hertz.*



November 12, 2024 at 06:09 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Karen S. Hertz.*



November 12, 2024 at 06:07 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Karen S. Hertz.*

November 12, 2024 at 06:07 PM



“ I'm so sorry to hear of Karen's passing. I'm praying for the family that they may have peace and many great memories of Karen. I feel blessed for the memories I have of her and her loving and caring soul. I'll never forget our trips to Alaska and Hawaii. In Alaska I tried get the family to try king crab cakes and they did not want to try them. So I teased them for ordering Chicken when they could have had the king crab. I Also was thrilled they were there for Kevin to fish with his doctor who had been at Uof M for his first bought with cancer. Also that only Kevin and I petted the octopus and the others did not want to try it. Laughs were abundant. Hawaii was great also. I remember Dennis and Karen putting white stones on the black beach, they made Kevin's name with them. Kevin wanted to go to Hawaii but did not make that trip. Karen did so many things in his memory. I'll never forget my trip down to sterling heights to see how they celebrated Halloween 🎃 Karen did it up in Grand style👁️. Thought of her many times, I love you Karen rest in peace. ❤️

Eleanor West - November 12, 2024 at 05:10 PM

MA

“ When me and bray were little grandma always picked us up from latchkey and took us to eat, then we'd play at her house. We used to go to work with her and have so much fun, we are going to miss her so much

Madisen - November 12, 2024 at 05:05 PM

MC

“ We have so many memories I can't can't think of my top one. The was one that she would always bring up to me. I think you would have to be there to really laugh at it. We had gone to a camp quality family camp and we got there early so I had a big van we all got in. We went shopping and did are shopping and met up at the front door and we all got in, I was getting ready to back out and Karen phone rang and she was like Kevin. Why are calling. He was like where are you guy she said in the van we all were like where is he then Karen said in the store. Reading this really doesn't seem the same as Bernini there. Love you Karen and all the family hugs to all

mary chaney - November 12, 2024 at 03:54 PM

KM

“ So many fond memories of Karen! she was like my second momma! Woman with strength and a heart of gold. Always had the best chats with her and she gave the best hugs. She raised the most caring and kind gentlemen. I always enjoyed when she would take me and my brother and her sons to her work and we could hang out in the impound lot of service towing. Lots of fun parties at their house and the fun times in the pool growing up. I surely miss her bright smile and the love she always gave to my family. My thoughts and prayers to the whole family! What a wonderful woman we lost. ❤️❤️
❤️

Katie Mann - November 12, 2024 at 03:42 PM

TA

“ Every year at the B4K banquet we would find each other and she would give me a big hug and a kiss on the cheeks and say Thank you for being a part of their trip to Alaska. Bless you Karen on your return to the Lords side and hugs with Kevin

Tom Andris - November 12, 2024 at 03:32 PM