



## Karen Howell Henrickson

November 4, 1952 - October 15, 2019

Karen Howell Henrickson, 66 was born November 4, 1952 in Marianna, Florida to Harry and Emily Howell. She passed peacefully on October 15, 2019 in Birmingham, Alabama.

Karen attended Marianna High School and soon after began her career at Sunland Center. When Karen was 19, she brought home a precious five-year-old little girl from Sunland just on the weekends. Eventually those weekend visits turned into a forever home for Jane Ellen Donalson, making Karen a mother for the first time. Jane Ellen lived and was loved by Karen and all the family for the rest of her life, as Karen's daughter. Karen became a mother again in 1973 and again in 1976. Karey and Kristin and Jane would live their lives loved deeply by their mother.

Karen continued to work at Sunland Center for the next 46 years. She gained many friends that she loved and that loved her while at Sunland. She was an important part of The Special Olympics for many, many years. She made a beautiful life for herself and her daughters, never missing a thing. She was very involved in everything they did growing up. She did the same when her first granddaughter was born, and from that time on, she became fondly known as Nana to us all. Her life and the love she had for her family and friends leaves us all blessed just to have known her. Her caring heart and love will be missed by many.

Karen loved the beach and upon retirement in 2016 she spent quite a bit of time at her beach house in Mexico Beach, Florida. Just as she always had done in Marianna, her beach house door was always open for her friends and family. Karen was a member of The First United Methodist Church of Marianna.

She is preceded in death by her parents; Harry and Emily Howell, also known to many as Pops and FanFan; husband, Phil Henrickson; and her daughter, Jane Ellen Donalson.

She is survived by her brother, Randy Howell; Randy's sons, Ted (Heather) and John (Lauren) Howell; daughter, Karey and Andy Lambert; daughter, Kristin and John Young

Roberts; her son, Jim Henrickson; and her grandchildren, Kendall and Cody Lambe, Brook Cummings, Sarah Hewett, Lily Roberts and Graham Roberts, Kaia Henrickson, and Tyler Downs. And a host of other family and friends.

Funeral services will be Friday, October 18, 2019 at First United methodist Church at Eleven o'clock in the morning with John Young Roberts & Reverend Dr. Nathan Attwood officiating. Burial will follow in Riverside Cemetery with James & Sikes Funeral Home Maddox Chapel directing.

The family will receive friends Thursday, October 17, 2019 from 5-7 at James & Sikes Funeral Home Maddox Chapel.

# Comments

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“ Our hearts hurt at the death of Karen. We know that all who knew her can think of a million good memories of just being around Karen. She will be deeply missed by many.

Wayne and Sandra Smith

**Elegance** - October 19, 2019 at 12:00 AM

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“ As I sit here and think about Karen, my heart just fills with pure joy of knowing her and sadness of losing her. Karen was one of the sweetest women I know. Always smiling and cheering you up. Love you Karen sleep on take your rest, we all love you but God loves you best!!

**Heart** - October 18, 2019 at 12:00 AM

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“ Ms. Karen - Very sorry for your departure, but I know you're resting. The angels in heaven will be touched by your presents, beauty, and your true kindness. May you family remain covered with your loving memories. Beautiful and classy lady, gone too soon. Father keep her family strong and help them during this trying time. There will be Peace in the Valley!!!

October 18, 2019 at 12:00 AM

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“ So sorry to hear of Karen's passing. I got to know and love her through volleyball competition between Sunland and Gadsden County ESE, and Special Olympics events. She was a special lady and will be missed! with Love, Gail Gholson

October 18, 2019 at 12:00 AM

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“ Jonathan & I Are sending love and condolences to Karen's family. She was a fine lady who I was lucky to know & enjoyed spending time with during the years that our girls were dancing. She was such a devoted mom & "dance mom" & a dynamic lady. She was always so friendly & fun She always took the time to stop & visit. I know you are all very proud to be Karen's family and will miss her dearly. Her life was too short but she filled it with love & devotion for her family, friends, and all that was important to her. She made a difference in so many lives and will always be remembered for her love & loyalty to all. I have been out of town & unfortunately just learned too late about Karen & her memorial today or we would have been there to pay tribute to her! Please know that we care and we are sending you prayers for peace during this sad & difficult time. With Love to All, Betty Taylor

October 18, 2019 at 12:00 AM

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October 18, 2019 at 12:00 AM

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“ A special lady..who will be missed by so many. Thoughts, prayers and love are with you all..  
Marsha and Gene Kent

**Candle of Love** - October 17, 2019 at 12:00 AM

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**Candle of Love** - October 17, 2019 at 12:00 AM

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October 17, 2019 at 12:00 AM

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**Blue Collection** - October 17, 2019 at 12:00 AM

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“ What a special lady Karen was. She was full of life, love, happiness, and loved all who she met. Her heart was full of love and life. So many are going to miss her. Prayers for her family during this difficult time. She has gained her wings and is having the time of her life with Fan Fan, Mr. Howell, and Jane Ellen.

October 17, 2019 at 12:00 AM

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**Sunny Memories** - October 17, 2019 at 12:00 AM

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“ Reading Karen's story has brought such comfort to my heart after receiving such shocking news. How encouraging to see how she lived life fully by reaching out to whomever GOD gave her opportunity. She was our little Marianna High School cheerleader --small in statue but HUGE in expressions of laughter & love. Our prayers are with her beautiful family- asking our LORD JESUS -to embrace each one with HIS loving arms, holding them close as they find true COMFORT, REFUGE, PEACE, GUIDANCE, STRENGTH in HIM Psalm 46 Love & prayers, 1970 High School Classmate, Mary Duncan Nevsimal & family

October 17, 2019 at 12:00 AM

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“ Karen and I worked together at Sunland. She was a very special lady and she will be missed. She had boundless energy and was always smiling. My prayers are with her family.

**Candle of Memories** - October 17, 2019 at 12:00 AM

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“ Karen was a precious friend. We will miss her greatly, especially our Nathan. He loved his Karen. She took him on so many Special Olympic trips and made life so much for him. Our loss is heaven's gain.

**Candle of Love** - October 16, 2019 at 12:00 AM

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October 16, 2019 at 12:00 AM

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Words right now just can't express the sadness in my heart. Just not long ago, Karen was expressing to me her love and support when Terry died. Now, I'm trying to express to Karen's family my love and support. I loved Karen. Karen loved life, living it to the fullness and she also loved her family very much. As long as Karen is in our hearts, she will always be with us. To her family, again, my deepest sympathy and if I can every do anything for you please, ask. As Karen and I sometimes would talk about our salvation, it is her prayer, as with any mother, that one day you will be reunited in heaven. Keep God in your hearts, his strength will help you get through this, that's His promise to us if we keep the faith.

**Heart** - October 16, 2019 at 12:00 AM

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We all have been devastated to hear of Karen's passing. I know Karen had a tremendous faith. Her, Jane Ellen, Pops and FanFan were there to welcome her to Heaven. Jesus gained an angel with a huge heart and one that BLESSED others. My heartfelt condolences to Randy, and all of Karen's family. My prayers will continue to be with you! In life, some people make an imprint on your heart, and Karen was one of them.

October 16, 2019 at 12:00 AM

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Karen was a special person and will be greatly missed

**Heart** - October 16, 2019 at 12:00 AM

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Karen was a special lady. I have known and loved her for over 20 years. Jackson County and Area 2 Special Olympics had a fierce advocate in her. We shared many a laugh at the Special Olympics competitions and conferences, She will be truly missed, My thoughts and prayers are with all of you in her family as well as her Special Olympics family

October 16, 2019 at 12:00 AM

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“ Still hard to believe- we have known each other for over 32 years- we roomed together and went on many special Olympic and other trips together- she was positive - never complained and and never slowed down- ! Prayers for her family

October 16, 2019 at 12:00 AM

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**Love's Journey** - October 16, 2019 at 12:00 AM