



Karen L. Freeman

October 26, 1944 - November 12, 2025

Karen Lee Freeman (née Lybarger), beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, and friend, went home to be with her Lord and Savior on November 12, 2025, at the age of 81.

Karen was born on October 26, 1944, in Granite City, Illinois, to Jimmie Lybarger, Sr. and Lela Merle (Lockley) Lybarger. She grew up surrounded by faith, family, and love—values that she carried throughout her entire life.

On August 19, 1966, Karen married the love of her life, Robert E. “Bob” Freeman, in Collinsville, Illinois. Together, they built a beautiful life centered on faith, love, and family—a bond that remained unbreakable throughout nearly six decades of marriage.

Karen was the devoted mother of three children: Kristan Leigh Freeman Byrd (Warren MacArthur Byrd), Kyle William Freeman (Amy Amber Freeman, née Strong), and Kane Michael Freeman (Jennifer Renee Freeman, née York).

She was a proud and loving grandmother to Caitlin Leigh Provinzano (Byrd), Devynn Nicole Webb (Byrd), Cali Morgan Falls (Byrd), Camryn Reece Byrd, Chayse Makenna Byrd, Rae Elizabeth Clay (Byrd), Dima Hunter Byrd, Blaine Alex Byrd, Jackson MacArthur Byrd, and Cruz Robert Byrd; Sophie Jean Freeman and William Scott Freeman III; Jake Robert Freeman and Sky Allen

Freeman.

Karen was further blessed with great-grandchildren who brought her immense joy: Caterina Leigh Provinzano, Remy MacArthur Webb, Jovi Nell Webb, and Theodore and Arthur Clay.

Karen is also survived by her beloved sister, Patti Jean Amsden (Lybarger), and brother-in-law, Dennis Wayne Amsden, her brother, Jimmie Lybarger, Jr., and sisters-in-law, Scottie June Freeman, Connie L. Freeman McBride and Tracy Freeman Coogan.

Her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren were her most treasured gifts—her prized possessions. Karen's happiest moments were spent attending their events, celebrating their milestones, and simply being present in their lives.

Karen's interests reflected her kind and generous heart. She loved attending her family's activities, visiting with friends, reading, traveling, enjoying movies, theater, and music, and finding ways to help others.

Above all, Karen's greatest passion was her relationship with her Savior. She loved Jesus deeply and lived her life as a reflection of His love and grace. Her faith was steadfast; she believed wholeheartedly in the death, burial, and resurrection of her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Her peaceful spirit and selfless compassion were a constant testimony to that faith. She would encourage everyone she knew to place their trust and hope in Him.

Her life was a blessing, her memory a treasure, and her legacy a light that will continue to shine through the family and friends who loved her so dearly. She is now at peace in the presence of the One she loved the most.

Arrangements are being handled by Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL.

Visitation will be held from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM on Monday, November 17, 2025, with the Funeral Service to follow at 11:00 AM on Monday, November 17, 2025, at Highland Community Church in Highland, IL, with Pastor Mark McGranahan and Pastor Matt Embry, officiating. Interment will be at Frieden's Cemetery in Troy, IL.

Karen requested that any donations in her memory be made to Highland Community Church, her home church, or to HIS KIDS of Highland, IL, both organizations dear to her heart.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 17. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Highland Community Church
2307 East Broadway
Highland, IL 62249
(618) 654-5751

Funeral Service

NOV 17. 11:00 AM (CT)

Highland Community Church
2307 East Broadway
Highland, IL 62249
(618) 654-5751

Tribute Wall

MH

“ Bob & Karen “adopted” me while I was a student at Illinois College and attended their church near the school. Small world that they found a Highland kid in Jacksonville to treat to lunch and an occasional drive around the area! Together their generosity and kindness brought a little ‘home’ to my time at school, and Karen was so sweet and kind. Her love for Jesus and for others was evident. I am so very sorry for your loss.

Mary Mollet Harris

Mary Harris - November 17, 2025 at 11:18 PM

PJ

“ Bob, so sorry to hear about Karen’s passing. We have such sweet memories of both of you. Sandi and I extend our deepest sympathies to you and your entire family. Our blessing to you all! ❤️

Paul and Sandi Janssen - November 16, 2025 at 12:21 PM



“ Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of Karen L. Freeman.



November 14, 2025 at 10:20 AM

KT

“ Kari Terhark purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Karen L. Freeman.



Kari Terhark - November 14, 2025 at 09:20 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karen L. Freeman.



November 14, 2025 at 08:39 AM

DM

“ Please accept our deepest sympathy. It is our hope during this time you remember and never forget the good times you all shared. Our prayers are with you.
Don and Iris Miller

Don Miller - November 13, 2025 at 10:32 PM

MM

“ Bob, Kristen, Kyle, Kane, and the Freeman Family,
So very saddened to hear of your beautiful loved one's passing. Whenever I think of Karen she has a big smile on her face. Love ❤️ and Memories are Forever and can Comfort us whenever we need them.
Keeping you close in thought and prayers,
Marsha & Steve Moore

Marsha Moore - November 13, 2025 at 04:33 PM

CS

*Bob and family,
We send our love and prayers to all. Karen was such a lovely person,
always kind and smiling. Your marriage was a model for all and I'm
sure she was the best mother and grandmother. May she rest in the
arms of Jesus.*

Cherie and Ed Sievers

Cherie Sievers - November 13, 2025 at 09:33 PM

SR

“ *Bob and family,*

*I have been keeping you and Karen in my daily prayers and asking
God to watch over her. And she is now safe in His arms.*

*She was such a blessing to all who knew her; and she will never be
forgotten.*

*Though she is gone from your presence, you have not lost her.
Someone isn't lost if you know where to find them, and you know
right where she is. She's where she always longed to be, in the
presence of her Lord and Savior. And you will be with her again.*

May God's peace, comfort and love surround you all.

Sandi Rinderer. Nashville, TN

Sandi Rinderer - November 13, 2025 at 03:27 PM



“ *I enjoyed getting to know Karen through Christian Women's Club
and Bible studies. Karen was a great person and always kind and
friendly. Thinking of her family and prayers to get through this hard
time. Judy Hartlieb*

Judy Hartlieb - November 13, 2025 at 02:52 PM



“ *Bob and family: You have my condolences. I will keep all of you in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Patti Sellers*

Patti Sellers - November 13, 2025 at 01:51 PM

MF

“ *Sincere condolences to all of the Freeman family. I have known Karen a long time - I never saw her without that beautiful smile and a friendly greeting. She was truly a special person. Prayers to the family.*

Mae Jacober and family - November 13, 2025 at 01:21 PM