



## Karen A. McConnell

May 11, 2014 - May 11, 2014

Karen A. McConnell, 55, of Kearney, died Sunday May 11, 2014 in Kearney. Funeral Services will be Thursday, May 15, 2014 at 10:30 a.m. at the Kearney Evangelical Free Church with Pastor Tim Peterson officiating, and burial at the Kearney Cemetery. Visitation will be Wednesday, May 14, 2014 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services in Kearney. The family will greet friends Wednesday evening at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to Mid-Nebraska Community Action Partnership Head Start or Children's Hospital and Medical Center Foundation in Omaha. Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services in Kearney are in charge of arrangements.

Karen was born August 25, 1958 in Lincoln, Nebraska to Donald and Clarice "Elaine" (Steen) Asbjornson. She graduated from Lincoln East High School, and then earned her degree from Bryan school of Nursing in Lincoln. Karen worked as a nurse at Children's Hospital in Omaha for 17 years, and was manager of the pediatric intensive care unit for five of those years. Karen married David McConnell on August 8, 1992 in Omaha. They moved to Kearney in 1994. After coming to Kearney, Karen was active as a volunteer at Kearney Public Schools as a member of the Windy Hills P.T.O., and was in charge of the school carnival for many years. She was a deacon at the

Presbyterian Church and volunteered for bible school. Karen also gave her time to the Children's Museum, the cancer center as a driver and volunteer, medical auxiliary officer and member, Head Start Christmas gifts program, Kearney Area for concerned citizens that helped prepare meals for Thanksgiving at the Knights of Columbus, and she helped lead the residents of Wel-Life in a morning stretching class. Karen attended Kearney Evangelical Free Church, where she would help in the office. She was a past officer, and member of P.E.O Chapter HB. Most of all Karen was the best at being a Mother, Wife, and Friend.

Karen is survived by her husband David McConnell of Kearney, NE, daughter Cassie Bernier and her husband Mark of Omaha, NE, sons: Austin McConnell of Denver, CO, Cole McConnell of Kearney, NE, mother Clarice "Elaine" Asbjornson of Lincoln, NE, brothers: Kevin Asbjornson of Singapore, Jon Asbjornson of Lincoln, NE, David Asbjornson of Lincoln, NE, sisters: Beth McCashland and her husband Tim of Omaha, NE, and Janie Haisch and her husband Scott of Scottsdale, AZ.

Karen is preceded in death by her father.

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# Tribute Wall



“ *Karen A. McConnell*

January 29, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ *Roger and Marlis Allmand has sent this Expressions of Sympathy card.*

**Roger and Marlis Allmand** - May 17, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mr. & Mrs. Roger Allmand has sent this Expressions of Sympathy card.*

**Mr. & Mrs. Roger Allmand** - May 17, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *My thoughts & prayers are with the McConnell & Asbjornson families at this time. May God grant you the strength to get through the coming days.*

**Chris Boland** - May 16, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *David & family*  
*I am so very sorry for your loss. I did not know your dear Karen personally. After reading others express how they felt about her I could tell it is my loss not to have known her.*  
*I look forward to meeting her in God's new world when "He will make all things new " and "death will be no more." Rev. 21:4, 5*  
*May the God of all comfort be with you all during this difficult time.*

**Sherry J.** - May 16, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ *my heart aches for the sadness that must be surrounding these families and all who knew sweet Karen.*

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**Julie Andersen Wahl** - May 16, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ *Beth and family,  
My deepest sympathy to you at the loss of your sister. Words escape me but know that you are all in my prayers.*

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**Sheila L Stauffer** - May 16, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DE

“ *Dave we will always remember Karen as she was Vivacious Caring Mother and Friend. Our love goes out to all of you!*

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**Dennis and Pattie Edwards** - May 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ *I want to express my deepest sympathy to all the family members. I was at Head Start for those years that Karen worked so hard at organizing the Christmas gifts for our children and families. With tears in our eyes and love in our hearts we knew with Karen's help our Families were going to have a better Christmas. God Bless all of you.*

*Melva Pavelka*

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**Melva Pavelka** - May 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ I was heartbroken to hear the news of Karen's death. I wish there was something I could say to ease your pain. I haven't seen Karen in years but remember her so fondly from our high school years. I loved her dearly. She was a very dear friend. I'm so sorry for your loss.

Sharol

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**sharol (Gartner) Starr** - May 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ Karen was one of the first people I met when I moved to Kearney in 2000. She was always a big part of all the great activities at Windy Hills. She and her friends would spend so much time and effort on the events they planned. I appreciate her kindness toward me.

*We were blessed to know her. Dave and family, you are in our prayers and thoughts at this time!*

*The Snider Family(Daren, Ann and children)*

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**The Snider Family** - May 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ Dave, I was so shocked to see Karen's obituary in the Lincoln paper today. I am so sorry. I know exactly what you and your family are going through. Terry has been gone 2 1/2 years. It's easier, but still so unbelievable. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

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**Jolene Gee** - May 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DG

“ I will always remember Karen for her beautiful smile and her friendliness. She made planning the Windy Hills school carnivals look easy and it was enjoyable to volunteer with her.

Our deepest sympathy to Dave, Cassie, Austin and Cole whom she loved and cherished.

Terry, Deb, Daniel and Dana Gibbs

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**Debra Gibbs** - May 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BP

“ I have such fond, fun memories of Karen at East High. We were in Singers together and got to be great friends. We had such fun at her graduation ceremony at Pioneers Park. She had the best sense of humor and of course; was gorgeous.

My condolences to her family, especially Beth who I knew as well. Prayers for you all.

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**Bill Porn** - May 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LD

“ Our heart felt sympathy for your loss. Karen will be missed. Her time and caring was a valuable contribution to our Head Start program as she had a positive impact on our preschool children and their families.

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**Lois Butler, Head Start Director** - May 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LJ

“ It is with a very heavy heart that I remember my friend and co-worker, Karen. I worked with her at Children's Hospital in Omaha for many years. She was always so bright and bubbly, and showed so much love for the children that she cared for. Her smile would light up the room when she walked in. I pray that she will find peace in her life everafter, and that her children will find comfort in their beautiful memories of her. Rest in peace, dear Karen!

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**Linda Jensen** - May 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM

NS

“ Oh Karen, I will remember you always with the greatest of memories! Your smile, your silliness, your chocolate chip cookie baking! The beautiful baby shower you held for my first born, the way you told me that you were pregnant with Cassie...I can still see you standing there at Children's and you wiggled your finger at me and said, "guess what? I got a little baby in here!" So excited!!! I'm sure you were a wonderful mother, just as you were a wonderful friend. Rest in peace Karen, and know that you are very much loved.

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**Nanette Schulte** - May 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ Karen was a beautiful soul with a heart of gold and will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family at this difficult time. Blessed be her memory. With sympathy, Heidi, Darren and Henry

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**The Swenson family** - May 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AV

“ Karen was an awesome billet mom for our son while he played for the Tri-City Storm. We will be forever grateful, and thankful for Karen, and cherish our memories forever. She was an amazing, fun loving person. Dave and family, our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Hugs to all!

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**Amy VanGilder** - May 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KA

“ Karen Ann Asbjornson is a woman and sister with a heart of gold.

*She exemplifies humility, compassion, thoughtfulness, empathy and touched the lives of many small children and their parents during her career as a distinguished pediatric intensive care nurse.*

*Her presence in our lives will be remembered forever in our hearts and the hearts of many people whose lives she touched during her brief life on earth.*

*I love you and miss you sweet Karen.*

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**Kevin Donald Asbjornson** - May 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ Keeping the McConnell family in my heart and prayers in this sorrowful time. Your family's love endures as your newest angel watches lovingly over each of you.

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**Lisa "Strong" Mott** - May 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM

ST

“ Karen was such a special person to her family and friends. Her legacy will be remembered by all who had the privilege to know her.

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**Sheila Tringe** - May 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ With admiration for the greatness of what you have built when no one was watching Ms. Karen you were so giving.

*It all began the way the kids would walk into the room while you might be on the phone and ask. Can you take me to hockey/cheerleading practice? Can you fix this or tie this? Hey where's my cell phone or uniform? What's for dinner Mom? There have been many dinners and cakes made and delivered to so many with love. The cancer patients that were cared for with gentleness. Along with the countless hours of scrapping with special friends of her greatest joy her children. Karen's love was also met with the Medical Auxiliary with the wrapping of the toys at Christmas time. Billet Mom to many Storm players. And yes, that smile that could light a room along with the silly little laugh.*

*As the days have passed I would think of the book you have so carefully written. With Admiration of the greatness of what you have built. It is like the building of a Cathedral.*

- 1.No one can say who built the great cathedrals we have no record of their names.*
- 2.These builders gave their whole lives for a work they would never see finished.*
- 3.They made great sacrifices and expected no credit.*
- 4.The passion of their building was fueled by their faith that the eyes of God saw everything.*

*The story of the legend of Karen is told by many with special memories in their own hearts. Just as someone might ask the builder of the cathedral why are spending so much time working on such a small carving into the beam that maybe covered up by the roof. Just as Karen would reply because my children would see and God.*

*As I close it is almost as God whispered to me I saw Karen. I saw the sacrifices she made every day even when no one around did. All the acts of kindness she did, all the cakes and cookies she*

*baked, all the baseball and hockey tournaments she went to, no last minute errand was too small for her to do without a smile. Ms. Karen you built a great cathedral.*

*In closing Ms. Karen today it is possible that the world will marvel not only at what you have built but at the beauty that you added to everyone's own cathedral and to your Children.*

*Much love and hugs Ms. Karen*

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**A friend** - May 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ *So sad to hear of Karen's passing. Keeping her, Dave, and all the family in our prayers.*

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**Jeff & Julie Brown** - May 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM

HS

“ *Dave and family,  
My heart breaks for you and the family. I still remember the day you told me you were going to propose to Karen and Cassie. My husband and I shared your happiness at your wedding reception. I hope her memories lift you all through your grief and find some peace in your loss. Sending my prayers to you and family at such a difficult time. Sincerely, Helen*

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**Helen Skinner** - May 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ *So sorry for your loss, sending my prayers for Karen and your family, may god hold you tight during this time.  
Richard Keck*

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**Richard Keck** - May 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ I knew Karen when she worked at Children's in Omaha. She was so nice to me when I was a new nurse and patient with all of my questions. She always had a smile on her face and made time for me when I needed it. Thinking of her family and hoping for peace for them.

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**Lisa Harner** - May 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ Our hearts go out to each member of your family in this very sad time. We are all with you in spirit and hope that our prayers will help in your time of grief. The Extended Hunt Family.

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**Cyndie Hunt** - May 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ My deepest condolences to each of you. I have extremely fond childhood memories of our friendship.

*My prayers to you all.  
Ann*

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**Ann Raglin Meints** - May 12, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SL

“ Karen was a special friend, I was very fond of her! She was kind, caring and a delight to know! Our prayers go out to her family .

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**Sally Lundell** - May 12, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SL

“ I was very fond of Karen! She was a lovely, caring person - a delight to know! Our prayers are with the family.

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**Sally Lundell** - May 12, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ *I just want to say how sorry I am and I am praying for all of you that God carry you through. She was a beautiful lady inside and out!!!*  
*Jackie*

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**Jackie Kernick** - May 12, 2014 at 12:00 AM