



## Karen L. Welsch

September 20, 1956 - February 4, 2021

Karen L. Welsch, age 64, of Kearney, passed away peacefully Thursday, February 4, 2021 at her home, after a lengthy battle with cancer, with her family and friends by her side. Karen's wishes were for cremation. A Celebration of Life is planned for Saturday, April 17, 2021 at 2 pm at her nephew's farm at 2174 28 Road, Kearney, NE. Memorials are suggested to the family, to be designated later.

Karen was born on September 20, 1956 in Oxford, NE to Robert E. and Marian M. (Irelan) Welsch. She attended Oxford High School and graduated with the class of 1974. She then attended St. Francis School of Nursing where she earned a degree as a Registered Nurse, graduating in 1977. Karen then began her career at Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney and retired in 2015 after 38 years of faithful service of caring for others. Words her patients and coworkers used to describe her are leader, mentor, compassionate, calm, she loved to laugh and have a little fun at work. Karen was very humble and shared in her last weeks that she did not realize how many people she had influenced and inspired.

Karen often shared of the many wonderful memories that she had growing up in Oxford and how close she and her older brother Kevin were. She loved being with him. Karen enjoyed their family vacations, traveling to places to take in the sights and visiting extended family. She had a love for animals, had

horses growing up and always had a dog throughout her life. Karen loved spending time outside, especially taking care of her yard and flowers and just being in the sunshine. She was a kind, generous and compassionate person who loved helping others and just being there for them when needed. What Karen cherished the most was spending time with her nieces and nephews and their children. What a legacy she has left for them. Karen was the epitome of the faithful servant. She had a strong personal faith in God that only grew more precious after her cancer diagnosis in November 2019. There is no doubt that she heard the words "well done good and faithful servant" when she entered into Heaven.

Those left to cherish Karen's memory and carry on her legacy include her uncle John (Barb) Irelan of Loveland, CO, brother, Kevin (Lori) Welsch of Leigh, NE; nephew, Kyle (Janell) Brown of Kearney, NE; niece, Hillary (Luke) Goodwin of Gothenburg, NE; nephew, Jeremy (Annie) Welsch of Omaha, NE; niece, Kristin (Keith) Henggeler of Eustis, NE. Great nieces and nephews Tate, Shayne, Gunner and Ila Mae Brown; Grace, Bristol and Logan Goodwin; Mikey, Emma and Lizzie Welsch; and Nolan Henggeler; and longtime special friend, Mary Fitzke of Kearney, NE. Karen considered Tom (Kendra) Brown as her nephew as well and his children Jaron, Addison and Logan. She will also be missed by many cousins and a host of friends.

Karen was preceded in death by her parents and grandparents; her uncle, Donald Irelan and uncle Wayne and aunt Bonnie Fish and cousin, Steven Fish.

While we rejoice that her mind is restored and her body no longer suffers, we will miss her presence in our lives, and are comforted by the fact that we will be reunited with her in Heaven someday.

Please visit [www.hlmkfuneral.com](http://www.hlmkfuneral.com) to leave a tribute or message of

condolence. Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services are in charge of arrangements.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

APR 17. 2:00 PM (CT)

Family Farm  
2174 28 Road  
Kearney, NE 68847

# Tribute Wall



“ *Karen L. Welsch*

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January 29, 2023 at 11:14 AM

“ This poem is stunning. Just wanted to share it. It is used in the Reform Jewish liturgy, as an optional reading, before Kaddish

”Every once in a while, a poem or song is so well constructed, so clearly conveys the authors meaning and is so precisely expressive that it becomes something of an anthem. The poem below, Epitaph, was written by Merrit Malloy and as one of those poems, has become a staple of funeral and memorial services...for good reason.”

*Epitaph - By Merrit Malloy*

*When I die  
Give what's left of me away  
To children  
And old men that wait to die.*

*And if you need to cry,  
Cry for your brother  
Walking the street beside you.  
And when you need me,  
Put your arms  
Around anyone  
And give them  
What you need to give to me.*

*I want to leave you something,  
Something better  
Than words  
Or sounds.*

*Look for me  
In the people I've known  
Or loved,  
And if you cannot give me away,  
At least let me live on in your eyes*

*And not your mind.*

*You can love me most  
By letting  
Hands touch hands,  
By letting bodies touch bodies,  
And by letting go  
Of children  
That need to be free.*

*Love doesn't die,  
People do.  
So, when all that's left of me  
Is love,  
Give me away. Just for Karen*

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**cyndie willhoit** - March 08, 2021 at 12:46 AM

BJ

“ *To the friends and family of Karen. She is a very special person. I will miss visiting with her. She was a terrific person and nurse. Karen had a sense of humor, and she touched many people's lives. I am truly sorry her life was cut short. She was very kind, and I feel a sense of loss from her passing. May your memories comfort you.  
Sincerely Bonnie Juranek*

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**Bonnie Juranek** - February 20, 2021 at 05:36 PM

MF

*Thank you Bonnie!*

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**Mary Fitzke** - February 22, 2021 at 08:49 PM

TL

“ *She was a neighbor of ours for years. She was a big help to her elder neighbors. Very nice person.*

**Terry Lamb** - February 09, 2021 at 12:18 PM

MF

*Thank you Terry. She always enjoyed visiting with you!*

**Mary Fitzke** - February 11, 2021 at 12:29 PM

SS

“ *Karen always treated me and my clinical nursing students on 4S with the utmost respect. Shirley Schuller, CCC. God blessed many people with her mind, heart and skills.*

**Shirley Schuller** - February 08, 2021 at 11:21 PM

MF

*Thank you Shirley. She loved teaching and mentoring.*

**Mary Fitzke** - February 11, 2021 at 12:30 PM

MS

“ *Thoughts and prayers are with you, I knew Karen many years ago as we worked together and also played softball. Mary I am sorry for your loss. You were great friends. My husband Verle replaced their deck a few years ago. He enjoyed working for them*

**MaryAnn Spracklen** - February 08, 2021 at 08:16 PM

MF

*Thank you MaryAnn. Many great memories of working together back "in the good old days at GSH!" We always love the work Verle and his team does for us!*

**Mary Fitzke** - February 11, 2021 at 12:32 PM

LS

“ You will forever be in my heart. We had some great times on 4-S. Now they are great memories. My forever friend "nothing will ever change that". We could always just pick up where we left off after I moved to Oklahoma. Well done sweet friend. You earned those wings..

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**Lori Smith** - February 08, 2021 at 07:55 PM

MF

♥ Forever in our hearts!!

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**Mary Fitzke** - February 11, 2021 at 12:33 PM

DH

“ I met Karen 27 years ago when I started at Good Samaritan hospital. I respected her so much in her knowledge, skills, leadership & more. More than that I learned to love her as a friend. She was always true, upright, caring, and more. I know there are so many more that she impacted just like she did me. We will not forget her! David Hiatt

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**David Hiatt** - February 08, 2021 at 07:28 PM

MF

Aww...David, she always loved working with you and the good conversations you had. Thank you for sharing! ♥

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**Mary Fitzke** - February 11, 2021 at 12:34 PM

KL

“ I worked with Karen as a floater. She was always so helpful and knowledgeable she will be missed

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**Kathy Larson** - February 08, 2021 at 12:32 PM

MF

*Thank you Kathy!*

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**Mary Fitzke** - February 11, 2021 at 12:34 PM

CW

“ *I worked with Karen. Such a great nurse. Karen was a very kind soul. Karen will always be in our hearts. Live forever 4 South*

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**Cyndie Willhoit** - February 05, 2021 at 04:13 PM

MF

*Always good times in 4 South!! So many great memories...and oh the laughs too!! Thanks for sharing Cindy!*

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**Mary Fitzke** - February 11, 2021 at 12:36 PM

WC

*Wow, I had no idea that Karen had passed. Always enjoyed our conversations at Oxford High back in the day, and our occasional visits at Good Sam in Kearney. She is at rest now and awaits the resurrection. Take care old friend.*

*Wilbur Jauken, BSN RN CPN*

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**Wilbur Jauken, BSN, RN, CPN** - June 10, 2021 at 11:26 PM