



Karen Meinardus

April 30, 1947 - March 11, 2020

Karen Maxine Hensley Meinardus, 72 of Georgetown, Texas passed away peacefully on March 11, 2020.

Graveside service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 21, 2020, at Oaklawn Memorial Park Cemetery located at 4609 North Highway 71, El Campo, Texas 77437. Rev. Dr. Erin McGee of the First Presbyterian Church will be officiating. A Memorial service to celebrate her adventurous life will be scheduled at a later date.

Karen was born in El Campo, Texas on April 30, 1947. She graduated from El Campo High School. In 1972, Karen received her B.S. in Education, Special Education and Psychology from University of Houston. In 1974, Karen received her Masters in Education Administration from University of Houston and Karen also received her Juris Doctorate from South Texas School of Law.

Karen was married to Lesley Meinardus for 40 years, from 1966 until 2006. Karen started her career as a special education teacher and she later became the Special Education Director for El Campo ISD. She taught Education Administration at the University of Houston from 1978-1980.

Before becoming an attorney, Karen lobbied the Texas Legislature to improve the laws and create regulations for group homes in Texas. This experience sparked her enthusiasm for law leading her to serve as County Attorney of

Wharton County, Texas from 1997-2000.

Karen was a member of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority and a member of the Rotary Club. Karen was active in legal organizations including College of the State Bar of Texas; Life Member of the Texas Bar Foundation; and Burta Rhoads Raborn Inns of Court. And, Karen served on the El Campo City Counsel for two terms from 1991-1994.

Karen's hobbies included watercolor painting, traveling the world, and writing. Karen studied advanced novel writing at Rice University from 1994-1998 and won several awards for her short stories. She also co-authored "The Wharton County Texas Pictorial 100 Year History 1846-1946."

In her younger years Karen participated in rodeos from ages 3 to 16. She also enjoyed goose hunting in her father's rice fields and deer hunting in South Texas. She was an avid sports fan and season ticket holder of the Houston Astros and Houston Texans.

Karen was an active member of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo where she was Captain of the Hospitality Committee and was part of the Rodeo Clown Team on the Speakers Committee. She enjoyed dressing as a rodeo clown and giving speeches to elementary and middle schools on the "History of Rodeos" and "History of Rodeo Clowns" and on various Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo events. Her real passion was dedicating her time to the Sunshine Kids of Houston and to the Cancer Unit at Texas Children's Hospital. Making a child smile, despite their pain or chronic condition, is what truly touched Karen's heart.

Karen once said, "When you answer a request for participation in events, it is not just about the points you earn, it is about the magic of making a child's day special, regardless of their location, situation or level of ability to interact with you – it is all about Heart! And you come away blessed."

One of Karen's colleagues described her "As an intelligent and motivated attorney, Karen is well known within the state of Texas and beyond as providing compassionate legal services to her clients. Karen is able to balance a successful career with both her vast community services activities and her family. And I am amazed at her energy."

Preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Dorothy Hensley and her son-in-law Richard "Rick" Barker.

Karen is survived by her daughters, Anissa Barker and Karma Shepard, grandson Blaine Barker, step-granddaughter Mykayla Lockhart and brother Bob Hensley.

In lieu of flowers, the family request memorial contributions to the Sunshine Kids Foundation of Houston, Texas and the Wesleyan Hospice of Georgetown, Texas.

Triska Funeral Home, El Campo, 979-543-3681

Previous Events

Graveside Service

MAR 21. 2:00 PM (CT)

Oaklawn Memorial Park
4609 State Hwy 71
El Campo, TX 77437

Tribute Wall

ST

“ *Sherrie Travers lit a candle in memory of Karen Meinardus* ”



Sherrie Travers - February 02, 2024 at 02:00 PM

ST

Fondly thinking of Karen today and holding her memory in my heart.

Sherrie Travers - February 02, 2024 at 02:02 PM

KA

“ *Kari lit a candle in memory of Karen Meinardus* ”



kari - August 26, 2020 at 05:17 AM

MD

“ *Your mom was an inspiration to me in work and in the community I'll always remember her fondly Our Prayers are with you* ”

Maria Ocanas Delgado - March 30, 2020 at 05:47 PM

MK

“ *Edna and I will miss her. She was always kind to us. I'm thankful I knew her* ”

Mike Krueger - March 24, 2020 at 09:36 PM

LC

“ Karen was a beloved sorority sister and she was dearly loved. We admired her intellect, her wit and her loving nature. You have my deepest and most heartfelt sympathy at this time. May she rest in peace and may perpetual light shine upon her.



Lorraine Cranek - March 23, 2020 at 05:43 PM



“ Karen was one of the wonderful attorneys in Fort Bend Family Courts. Lots of us will miss her. Fred Krasny

Fred Krasny - March 22, 2020 at 06:16 PM

RM

“ I worked with Karen on many cases when I was Probate Auditor for County Court. She was always professional, kind and fair. I will never forget the times she stood up for me. She was a true friend. Rest in peace my friend.

Rita Miller - March 21, 2020 at 12:17 AM

E1

“ El Campo High School Class Of 1968 lit a candle in memory of Karen Meinardus



El Campo High School Class of 1968 - March 20, 2020 at 05:17 PM

CI

“ *Cindy lit a candle in memory of Karen Meinardus*



Cindy - March 20, 2020 at 05:05 PM

SH

“ *We are sad for your loss. I worked with Karen in Special Education. She was a special lady. May God give you comfort.*

Sylvia Huey - March 20, 2020 at 11:09 AM



“ *Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karen Meinardus.*



March 20, 2020 at 12:30 AM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Karen Meinardus.*



March 19, 2020 at 09:55 PM



“ *Sweet Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Karen Meinardus.*



March 19, 2020 at 10:33 AM



“ *Ava Kohen sent a virtual gift in memory of Karen Meinardus*



Ava kohen - March 19, 2020 at 01:11 AM



“ *I am saddened to hear of Karen's death and send love and prayers to Anissa, Karma, Bob and their families. I watched her grow from childhood and always admired her and her determination. She'll be missed.*

Gloria Dowden

Gloria Dowden - March 18, 2020 at 06:20 PM

DZ

“ Thinking of the Family at this time, and sending Prayers. Karen was a hard working, loving person. Always on the go, serving the community and taking care of her family. May God rest her soul. She will be dearly missed. Diana and Wayne Zabodyn



Diana Zabodyn - March 18, 2020 at 12:52 PM

LC

“ So glad to have had the pleasure to know Karen and her wonderful family. She was a remarkable woman and a great Mother and Grandmother! I know she will be greatly missed by her family and friends! May she Rest is Peace!



Linda Carter - March 18, 2020 at 11:55 AM

SH

“ Such a beautiful person. I was lucky enough to have met her when I first moved to Houston 30 years ago. She felt like family from the first time we talked. I traveled to Europe with her and and she touched everyone she met along the way with her glowing personality. She was a gem; one of a kind. Farewell my dear friend. I'll never forget you!



Susan Hutchinson - March 18, 2020 at 10:05 AM

AM

“ *Andrea McCann lit a candle in memory of Karen Meinardus*



Andrea McCann - March 17, 2020 at 07:07 PM

LM

“ *So many fond memories of our families spending good times together.karen will be remembered as a bright light in her community.
Our sympathy and heartfelt prayers to each of the family members.
Betty Shult Nickel
Glenn and Lora (Shult) Mount*

lors mount - March 17, 2020 at 04:42 PM

FT

“ *Frances Toman lit a candle in memory of Karen Meinardus*



Frances Toman - March 17, 2020 at 04:22 PM

TR

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Tom Rioux - March 17, 2020 at 10:02 AM

LK

“ *Linda Kram sent a virtual gift in memory of Karen Meinardus*



Linda Kram - March 16, 2020 at 11:46 PM

LK

Sending prayers for the family. I am sorry for the loss of your loved one. Karen Rest In Peace.

Linda Kram - March 16, 2020 at 11:49 PM

FK

“ *My sympathy to the family.*
Frances Kyle

Frances A Kyle - March 16, 2020 at 01:50 PM

JB

To Karen's daughters: I do not know you personally but I did know your mother. She will be missed in our community as a leader, friend and fellow servant of our Lord. I know you must have so many beautiful memories. My sympathy.

Jo Etta Biggerstaff - March 16, 2020 at 03:06 PM

CR

Karen and I became friends over 25 years ago when I met her as a customer of mine at the bank. She was a very dear person, and loved you girls so much. She was so very proud of you both and always would talk about you both. She loved her baseball team, Astros!
Carolyn Roy

Carolyn Roy - March 16, 2020 at 04:49 PM

HG

Karen and I were friends she was a loving teacher at ECHS always willing to help you learn. She was a good neighbor lived across from us in Appling St.

Hopie Garza - March 16, 2020 at 05:48 PM