

Karen Bakken

A beloved mother, grandmother, and friend -

Karen A. Gill was born on July 18, 1951, in Jamestown, ND to the late Daniel Gill and Mary (Manock) Gill. A graduate of Breckenridge High School in 1969, Karen continued her education by attending nursing school in Fergus Falls, MN, where she graduated as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). Karen met her future husband, Jerry Bakken, at Terrace Lanes and they later married on December 4, 1971. Their union was blessed with three children, Timothy, Michele, and Jodi. Together they lived in several states including Hawaii, Oklahoma, Indiana, Alaska and abroad in Germany, eventually settling back in Wahpeton with their children.

Karen's commitment to service extended into her professional life, where she drove a school bus for 24 years. Her dedication to the community was further demonstrated by her 14 years of officiating soccer games. Beyond her professional accomplishments, Karen was a talented musician who sang in numerous cantatas with the St. Francis Choir and spent two years performing with the Primetime Choir in Fargo.

In her free time, Karen spent her time reading, planting flowers, tending to her garden, and trips to the lake, where she found solace fishing and birdwatching. A woman of imagination, she found joy in coloring, constructing with Legos, and assembling complex puzzles. Above all, Karen cherished the moments spent with her grandchildren, who were the heart of her world, along with her beloved "little pips."

Karen leaves behind a loving family that includes her mother, Mary Smith; children Timothy Bakken, Michele (Michael) Graves, and Jodi Bakken; grandchildren Chelsie (Taurean Smith) Bakken, Bailey (Arwen Sheldon) Graves, Alexis Bakken, Madison (Clayton Steinbeiser) Graves, and Brady Graves; and great-grandchildren Arianna Bakken, Gabrielle, Emmet, and Cameron Smith. Her legacy will also continue through her siblings Char Spiedel, Jerry (Cynthia) Gill, David Gill; stepsiblings Virginia (Dave) Peterson, Daryl (Sue) Smith, Carol (Mike) Olson, and James (Kristi) Smith; and brothers in law John (Kathy) Bakken and Jeff (Barb) Bakken, along with many cherished nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.

Karen was preceded in death by her spouse, Jerry Bakken; her father, Daniel Gill; her stepfather, Robert Smith; brother, James Gill; and her in-laws, Aldon and Arlene Bakken.





God's Garden

God looked around his garden
And found an empty place,
He then looked down upon the earth
And saw your tired face.

He put his arms around you
And lifted you to rest.
God's garden must be beautiful
He always takes the best.

He knew that you were suffering
He knew you were in pain.
He knew that you would never
Get well on earth again.

He saw the road was getting rough
And the hills were hard to climb.
So he closed your weary eyelids
And whispered, 'Peace bethine.'

It broke our hearts to lose you
But you didn't go alone,
For part of us went with you
The day God called you home.



Karen Alyce Bakken



Born

July 18, 1951 | Jamestown, North Dakota

Passed Away

September 9, 2024 | Fargo, North Dakota

Age

73 Years | 1 Month | 24 Days

Memorial Service

11:00 AM | Thursday, September 19, 2024
Vertin-Munson Funeral Home | Wahpeton, North Dakota

Officiant

Pastor Rich Kramer

Eulogy

Carin Kassa

Readings

Psalms 23 | John 3:16 | John 14:1-3

Music

"Something Beautiful" by David Phelps
"He Touched Me" by Gaither Vocal Band
"Because He Lives" by Gaither Vocal Band
"Hallelujah" by Pentatonix

Honorary Urn Bearers

Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren
Chelsie Bakken | Taurean Smith | Baily Graves
Alexis Bakken | Madison Graves | Brady Graves | Arianna Bakken
Gabrielle Smith | Emmet Smith | Cameron Smith

Interment

Fairview Cemetery | Wahpeton, North Dakota

