

Karleen was born on January 24, 1963 in Breckenridge, MN, the sixth child and the only daughter of Thaine “Doc” and Donna (Lee) Willemsen. She attended elementary school in Foxhome, MN and then graduated from Breckenridge High School at the age of 17. Afterwards, she attended college at University of Mary in Bismarck, ND, and then finalized her nursing degree at NDSCS in Wahpeton, ND.

Karleen met her future husband, Bruce P. Krause, while working at a nursing home as an LPN. On January 11, 1986, during a blizzard, the two were wed in Fairmount and later welcomed three daughters: Meghan, Chelsea, and Jade. The couple enjoyed a life working together, growing what would eventually become Krause Brother’s Construction while Karleen still worked as a nurse. With her entrepreneurial spirit, Karleen eventually then went on to own Dakota Frame and Globe Gazette after leaving nursing. On their free time, Bruce and Karleen would spend time with their daughters, go on trips throughout the US, and riding motorcycle. Most of all, they enjoyed spending time with family and friends at the lake.

Like the wind, Karleen would come and go. She lived her life on her own terms and lived it to the fullest. She loved to tinker, often working on multiple projects at once. Karleen was known to be dangerous with a sledge hammer, and loved tearing things apart and putting it back together. She had a unique artistic eye with everything she did, and was always working on something. She was a visionary and a jack of all crafts, especially jewelry making, quilting, crocheting, and drawing, but also dabbled in loom work, wood working, stained glass, and leather.

Karleen was generous, fun loving, and had a great sense of humor to everyone she met. In her later years, she enjoyed going to Montana and traveling with her little dog, Thor. Always on the side of Lady Luck, she would often win against the odds playing poker or spending time at the casino with her friends. She loved her family fiercely and was a source of support and encouragement. She especially loved spoiling her grandchildren with her creations and sending them back to their parents full of sugar.

Left to cherish the memory of Karleen are her daughters: Meghan (Carl) Tegtmeier, Chelsea (Blaise) Birchem, and Jade Krause; her grandchildren: Theodore and Clara Tegtmeier, and Thane and Reyna Birchem; her brother, Tom (Kim) Willemsen; sisters-in-law Shelly Willemsen and Patsy Willemsen; as well as uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Preceding her in death was her husband, Bruce; her parents, Doc and Donna Willemsen; brothers: Donald “Donny”, Rodney “Rocky”, Gary, and Leslie “Les” Willemsen as well as in-laws, uncles, aunts, and nephew.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to Someplace Safe of Wilkin County, 61 for 61 Roger Maris Cancer Center, Plains Art Museum, or your favorite organization. ♥♥♥

Celebrating the Life of



Karleen D. Krause

1963 - 2023



Death is *nothing* at all.
 I have only slipped away into the next room.
 I am I, and you are you. WHATEVER WE WERE
 to each other, that we still are.
 Call me by my old familiar name, speak to me in the
 easy way which you always used. Put no difference
 in your tone, wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.
Laugh as we always laughed at the little
 jokes we enjoyed together.
 Pray, smile, think of me, PRAY FOR ME.
 Let my name be ever the household word that it
 Always was, let it be spoken without effect, without
 The trace of a *shadow* on it.
 Life means all that it ever meant. It is the same as it
ever was; there is unbroken continuity.
 Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight?
 I am waiting for you, for an interval, somewhere very
 near, just round the corner. ALL IS WELL.

- Henry Scott Holland



Celebration of Life

Karleen D. Krause



Born

January 24, 1963
 Breckenridge, Minnesota

Passed Away

July 16, 2023
 Christine, North Dakota

Age

60 Years 5 Months 23 Days

Service

11:00 AM - Saturday, July 22, 2023
 Vertin-Munson Funeral Home
 Wahpeton, North Dakota

Officiant

Jeanne Putnam

Music

“Eyes Closed” by Ed Sheeran
 “Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone” by BYU Noteworthy
 “Glitter in the Air” by Pink

Interment

Fairmount Cemetery
 Fairmount, North Dakota



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Karleen D. Krause



Celebration of Life

12:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Saturday, July 22, 2023
Vertin-Munson Funeral Home
Wahpeton, North Dakota

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January 24, 1963
Breckenridge, Minnesota

Passed Away

July 16, 2023
Christine, North Dakota

Age

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The family wishes to express their gratitude for your
kind expressions of sympathy and for honoring Karleen
with your presence at her celebration of life.