



Karen Kelly Sutherland

March 22, 1943 - July 22, 2016

KAREN ANNE (KELLY) (LAIDLAW) SUTHERLAND 1943 ~ 2016 Karen grew up in the Chicago area, graduated from Taft High School in 1960, moved to Vancouver, WA in 1978, and supported her family as a salesperson until she retired in 1996. She married her best friend Dave Sutherland on Aug. 12, 1989. She died of a sudden, acute lung problem which did not respond to treatment. Karen loved people! She was always taking people into her heart, at times even her home, from friends of her kids to co-workers to people she met in her volunteer work. Karen was in her element hosting huge family gatherings where she led the festivity with her raucous laughter, her wise-cracking tongue, and her open heart. She was making jokes to the last. Even difficulty breathing couldn't keep her natural love and laughter from pouring out of her. Her generous heart motivated her to volunteer for many organizations: Women Helping Women, Trauma Intervention Program, the Humane Society, and pet therapy with her dog Sammy. But Karen was most passionate about helping people grieve. She did this for children at the Dougy Center and for adults at Hospice Southwest and for pet owners in a group she started. Karen is survived by her husband, Dave Sutherland; their 7 combined children and their spouses; 19 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren; her sister, Linda Sak; and countless others who call her family. Viewing Thursday, July 28th, 12-9p.m.; Service Friday, July 29th, 10:00 a.m.; at Evergreen Memorial Gardens. Donations to Hospice Southwest in lieu of flowers. Please sign her Guest Book at www.columbian.com/obits.

Tribute Wall



“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

Evergreen Memorial Gardens - July 03, 2025 at 05:40 PM



“ Karen I cant believe your gone, I will miss you so much, I loved you so, thank you for being in my life.We will meet again.

Joyce Johnson - July 26, 2016 at 12:00 AM