



## Karen Elizabeth Burns

August 29, 1961 - November 19, 2024

Karen Burns, 63, of Round Lake IL, passed away on November 19, 2024.

Karen was born in Wellsville NY August 29, 1961, the daughter of Bill and Betty Burns. Karen grew up in Gurnee IL, where she graduated in 1979 from Warren Township High School. Her career started in the restaurant and catering industry. She married Greg Peklay and became the proud mother of Steven and Christopher. Karen was a very hardworking parent who balanced supporting her children in their activities while furthering her career and getting a college degree. She joined Abbott Labs in the catering department but after getting her degree she joined Contracts. Karen then advanced to research and oncology. During this time she moved to Abbvie Inc. She finished her career traveling the world organizing meetings for drug research. Karen loved exploring new parts of the world and this job really melded her event planning ability with her research knowledge.

Unfortunately, Karen's career was interrupted due to a massive stroke that resulted in her retiring from working at Abbvie. Karen became involved in her hobbies of gardening, quilting, and traveling. Spending time with family and her many beloved lifelong friends was always important to her. Karen attended different aphasia treatment courses and traveled with an aphasia group. Her two dogs Mario and Luigi became her little friends that she took camping and traveling. Of course, she didn't fully retire but continued to

volunteer her time to serve and organize events for the community and groups important to her.

Karen is survived by her sons Steven Peklay (Priscilla Kersey) and Christopher Peklay (Zach McHardy). Karen loved being a grandmother to Kiara and Aiden. Karen is survived by her mother Betty Burns and sisters Roxanne BurnsVatter and Lilynn Kattner. She was preceded in death by her father Bill Burns and sister Teresa Bunsen.

In Lieu of flowers Donations may be made to:

Northwestern Center for Speech: <https://tinyurl.com/yc54mnfx>

or

Autism Speaks: <https://tinyurl.com/4rj4ywav>

Memorial visitation will be 4 - 6:30 p.m. on Monday, November 25, 2024 at Ringa Funeral Home. A memorial service will begin at 6:30 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

NOV **25**. 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM (CT)

Ringa Funeral Home  
122 S. Milwaukee Ave.  
Lake Villa, IL 60046  
(847) 356-2146  
info@ringafuneralhome.com  
<https://www.ringafuneralhome.com>

## Memorial Service

NOV **25**. 6:30 PM (CT)

Ringa Funeral Home  
122 S. Milwaukee Ave.  
Lake Villa, IL 60046  
(847) 356-2146  
info@ringafuneralhome.com  
<https://www.ringafuneralhome.com>

# Tribute Wall

MM

“ *Monika M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karen Elizabeth Burns.*

Monika M. - November 25, 2024 at 05:50 PM

JF

“ *Janet F. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karen Elizabeth Burns.*

Janet F. - November 25, 2024 at 01:57 PM

“B

“ *Sending loving hugs and prayers to you her family. Karen was a special person and a wonderful friend to all she came in contact with. Know I am there in spirit, “KK” Brocato*



“KK” Brocato - November 22, 2024 at 02:15 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Karen Elizabeth Burns.*

November 22, 2024 at 10:54 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Karen Elizabeth Burns.*



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November 22, 2024 at 10:54 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Karen Elizabeth Burns.

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November 22, 2024 at 08:43 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Karen Elizabeth Burns.*



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November 22, 2024 at 08:43 AM



“ *Love aunt Dawn and Uncle Scott planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karen Elizabeth Burns.*

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**Love aunt Dawn and Uncle Scott** - November 22, 2024 at 06:31 AM

LS

“ Love aunt Dawn and Uncle Scott purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Karen Elizabeth Burns.



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**Love aunt Dawn and Uncle Scott** - November 22, 2024 at 06:31 AM

LG

“ Leslie and Garrett planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karen Elizabeth Burns.

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**Leslie and Garrett** - November 21, 2024 at 11:16 PM

LG

“ Leslie and Garrett purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Karen Elizabeth Burns.



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**Leslie and Garrett** - November 21, 2024 at 11:16 PM

DB

“ Dennis B. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karen Elizabeth Burns.

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**Dennis B.** - November 21, 2024 at 08:04 PM