



## Karen O'Lena

October 17, 1956 - July 5, 2008

Visitation for Karen O'Lena, 51, of St. Anne, will be from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home, Bourbonnais. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Thursday at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Bradley. Burial will be in Mt. Calvary Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the family wishes. She died Saturday (July 5, 2008) at Provena St. Mary's Hospital. Mrs. O'Lena was a teachers' aide for Kankakee School District 111, working with the hearing impaired and special education classes. She was born Oct. 17, 1956, in Kankakee, the daughter of Robert A. and Pauline Ford Golding. She was a graduate of Eastridge High School and attended Kankakee Community College. She was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Bradley. Surviving are her husband, John R. O'Lena, whom she married Oct. 22, 1983, at St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church in Kankakee; two sons, Evan O'Lena of St. Anne, Luke O'Lena of St. Anne; one daughter, Sara O'Lena of St. Anne; her mother of Kankakee; one sister and brother-in-law, Sue and Vince Micha of Grafton, Wis.; two brothers and one sister-in-law, Robert M. "Mike" Golding of Indianapolis, Ind., Thomas and Becky Golding of Bourbonnais; two sisters-in-law, Judy Steele of St. Anne, Susie Golding of Indianapolis; and one brother-in-law, Jim O'Lena of Long Beach, Calif. Deceased are her father; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Russell and Donna O'Lena; and grandmother, Irene Golding.

# Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Tribute Album*



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**Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes** - December 07, 2010 at 03:00 PM



“ Your family has our sympathy at this difficult time.##imported-begin##Carol & Joe Fritz##imported-end##

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July 05, 2008 at 11:15 AM



“ We are so sorry to hear of your loss. My son was once a student in her class, and he was very fond of her. Whenever I saw her she was always smiling. My son was in her class 7 years ago. When he heard of the news he was very hurt. I pray that God comforts the family and gives them strength. Know that being absent from the body is being present with the LORD. May you find peace in your time of sorrow.##imported-begin##Davon Myart Tamika McCaleb(his mom)##imported-end##

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July 05, 2008 at 11:15 AM



“ John,Evan,Luke and Sara,<br><br>Karen was a wonderful person. She had an awesome personality, she was loving, supportive, and full of life. She loved you all very much. She is an <br><br>inspiration to me and I cared very much for her. She was my friend. If you need anything please let me know. <br><br>Your friends, <br><br>Mike and Peggy Wilhoyt<br><br><br><br>I will keep you each in my prayers!###imported-begin##Peggy Wilhoyt###imported-end##

July 05, 2008 at 11:15 AM



“ John, I was so saddened to hear about Karen's passing. ĩ¿½I pray that God will give you strength to get through this difficult time. ĩ¿½You and your family will be in my thoughts and prayers.###imported-begin##Maureen Theesfeld###imported-end##

July 05, 2008 at 11:15 AM



“ I'm a former Clerk/Receptionist for the Kankakee School District 111 - School Based Health Centers. ĩ¿½I met Karen through her son Luke, who was one of our patients. ĩ¿½She was a pleasure to know and my thoughts and prayers go out to Luke and his family. ĩ¿½###imported-begin##Karen Leutloff###imported-end##

July 05, 2008 at 11:15 AM



“ It was a pleasure to work with Karen and her family, who took such wonderful care of her. Karen was one special lady and she will be missed.###imported-begin##Diann Scott###imported-end##

July 05, 2008 at 11:15 AM



“ John and Family,<br><br> What a great Wife & Mother !!! i½I worked with John many years at Armstrong and that's how I met Karen...What a GREAT person !! i½She was so very PROUD of you Evan, Luke and Sarah every time I ran into John & Karen we always caught up on how the kids were doing...May you find peace and God Bless! John please know you're in my thoughts at this difficult time.<br><br>Sincerely,<br><br>~Kris~##imported-begin##Kristine Trombley##imported-end##

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July 05, 2008 at 11:15 AM



“ Our deepest sympathy to the family may God guide you and your family during your time of need. Karen is in a place i½where she can watch over all of you.<br><br><br><br>Trent and Olivia##imported-begin##Trent & Olivia Nemitz##imported-end##

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July 05, 2008 at 11:15 AM



“ Mike,<br><br><br><br>We are very sorry for your lose our prayers and thoughts are with you and your family. While Karen fought a strong and long battle she is now at peace with God.<br><br><br><br>If there is anything we can do don't hesitate to call.<br><br><br><br>Sincerely,<br><br><br><br>Tom, Peach, Charlie and Katie Eckhart##imported-begin##The Eckhart's##imported-end##

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July 05, 2008 at 11:15 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. i½<br><br><br><br>Karen will be deeply missed.##imported-begin##Carrie and Alan Johnson##imported-end##

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July 05, 2008 at 11:15 AM



“ John,  
  
  
  
May you take comfort in knowing that the God of all understanding will sustain in you in this difficult time. You are in my prayers. I worked with you years ago at Armstrong and remember the beautiful spirit your wife always had. May the Lord keep you in perfect peace.  
  
  
  
By his grace,  
  
  
Rev. Victor Thomas###imported-begin##Victor Thomas###imported-end##

July 05, 2008 at 11:15 AM



“ Mrs. O'Lena had the bestest heart ever. You would never see her walking around sad or plain-faced; she was always smiling. I enjoyed the many times that I visited their home because she and her husband were always so warm...Her love will truly be missed. To Mr. O'Lena, Evan, Sara, and Luke I just want you to know that I am here for you all...what ever it is...PLEASE LET ME KNOW! I love you all and my family, my church, and I will be praying for your strength###imported-begin##Stephan Burse Jr.###imported-end##

July 05, 2008 at 11:15 AM



“ My prayers and condolences are with your family in this time of sorrow.###imported-begin##Stacey Williams###imported-end##

July 05, 2008 at 11:15 AM



“ JOHN, I JUST WANT TO SAY THAT I'AM SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS. WE WILL ALL MISS KAREN VERY MUCH.###imported-begin##JERRY MCCOIN###imported-end##

July 05, 2008 at 11:15 AM



“ I know Karen through her son, Luke. Karen is one of the most incredible mothers and advocates I have ever known. She will be missed dearly by her family and friends. I will miss her as Luke's advisor at MacMurray College. Karen was always there for her son, and I knew I could always turn to her as well. We can all take heart in knowing she is looking out for us from above. God Bless Karen O'Lena... one of God's angels.##imported-begin##Laura Blackburn##imported-end##

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July 05, 2008 at 11:15 AM



“ karen was a very good hearing impaired assistant.she was a very good mother and wife. she will be deeply missed.but we will meet again someday.to the family keep your head up and make kaen proud.deepest sympathy. katrina woodard##imported-begin##katrina woodard##imported-end##

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July 05, 2008 at 11:15 AM



“ I tried to take i½Karen's place at the high school when she became ill but I soon found out, i½they were hard shoes to follow. The two deaf kids she helped were very fond of her along with their disability teacher. Karen often went the extra mile with them. They looked forward to being with her after school hours. She gave them extra help when she wasn't even being paid. There are not too many people around that would do that. She left behind fond memories. God bless you!##imported-begin##Dave and Andrea Taylor##imported-end##

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July 05, 2008 at 11:15 AM



“ Dear John, Evan, Luke and Sarah,  
  
Tom and I are deeply sadden with the news of Karen. ĩ½It is times like this that being away from Kankakee makes it extremely hard! ĩ½We will never forget all the road trips and looking around and their all of you were cheering on the Aroma Park All Stars and State Champs. ĩ½That's seem so long ago but the memories are fresh in our hearts.  
ĩ½Standing there watching as the kids came off the field and there the O'Lena's were with a smile and a high 5. Karen will be missed by many. I will miss that special hug from her as one mom to another!!! I hope you all know how very special you are!!  
  
Love,   
  
Tom and Rita Barrett###imported-begin##Tom and Rita Barrett###imported-end##

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July 05, 2008 at 11:15 AM



“ Karen was an amazing lady. Wonderful wife and mother. She will be missed by all who knew her. My love to her mother, Pauline; brothers, Thomas and Michael; sister, Susan. Husband, John; daughter, Sara; and sons, Evan and Luke. May they all find peace.  
  
  
  
Aunt Pat Arseneau ĩ½###imported-begin##Patricia A. Arseneau###imported-end##

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July 05, 2008 at 11:15 AM



“ We always enjoyed John and Karen's visits to the pool with Luke. ĩ½We will miss her greatly, but the Lord has called her to a higher place. ĩ½God bless all of Karen's family.###imported-begin##Tom and Anne Young###imported-end##

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July 05, 2008 at 11:15 AM



“ John, I'm am so sorry to hear of the loss of your loving wife Karen. i ½Pauline, haven't been in contact with you or much of anyone since the days when Kraft closed in late '94. i ½But fondly recall the days working for your husband, Karens father, Bob and knowing your family when your grandchildren were just little tots. i ½Sending my condolences to each of you, and hoping with time, as you recall more and more happy, loving memories of Karen, will give you peace.##imported-begin##Joyce Hosier##imported-end##

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July 05, 2008 at 11:15 AM



“ To Karen's Family:<br><br>I was so sorry to hear of the loss of Karen. My heart goes out to all in her family. I grew up with Karen out on Splear Rd. We were great friends, had so much fun together with her and her family. I get the Kankakee Journal out<br><br>here in Oregon and got to keep up with the articles written on Karen and her son. I always wanted to call her and tell her how proud I was of her, but never did. Now I'm sorry I didn't. So I'm telling her family now - not being in touch with her for years, I'm still feeling a great loss. She is an exceptional person who will be greatly missed. I'm so sorry.<br><br><br><br>Lana (Moody)Cartier##imported-begin##Lana (Moody) Cartier##imported-end##

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July 05, 2008 at 11:15 AM



“ John, I'm so sorry, I just heard tonight (7/10). You and your family are in my prayers. Even though I couldn't be there to say good-bye to Karen in person I have in my heart. I will always remember her energetic and fun loving spirit. There are many fond memories of her for me from all those years ago when we played softball together and worked at CG. May God help you all through this painful time of saying good-bye for awhile.##imported-begin##Joan (Godin) Falkenhan##imported-end##

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July 05, 2008 at 11:15 AM



“ Please accept our most heartfelt sympathies for your loss?our thoughts are with you and your family during this difficult time. <br><br><br>May God bless you and your family##imported-begin##Mary Martin and Billy Martin##imported-end##

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July 05, 2008 at 11:15 AM



“ I was shocked and saddened to hear of Karen's death. I taught at Aroma Park when your youngest daughter was there and Luke was at Limestone. I kept up a little with Luke, that he came back to Kankakee and was able to attend classes with the benefit of an interpreter and note-taker. Your family went through a great deal then. I am so sorry to hear you lost Karen way too soon.##imported-begin##Jan Burger##imported-end##

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July 05, 2008 at 11:15 AM



“ To Karen's family:<br><br>We know you have such beautiful memories of your beloved, and hope you can keep them in your minds always. ĩ½She was a true spirit in so many ways, ĩ½We will miss her smile and cheerful heart.<br><br>Dave and Kelly Golding###imported-begin###Dave and Kelly Golding###imported-end##

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July 05, 2008 at 11:15 AM



“ Mrs. O'Lena touched so many people that I bet she didn't even realize. She raised three awesome children who I am sure will continue her legacy. ĩ½Karen, and the entire O'Lena family are in my thoughts.###imported-begin###Hannah Wilkinson###imported-end##

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July 05, 2008 at 11:15 AM



“ you are in my thoughts and prayers###imported-begin###shannon owens###imported-end##

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July 05, 2008 at 11:15 AM



“ so sorry to hear of your loss. ĩ½Our thoughts and prayers are with you John and your family.###imported-begin###Vickie and Kevin###imported-end##

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July 05, 2008 at 11:15 AM



“ John we send our deepest sympathy to you and your family.  
½Karen is now in a better place where the suffering is over.  
½Hold onto the wonderful memories. ½We will keep you and  
your family in our prayers.##imported-begin##Jeff and Donna  
Moranz##imported-end##

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July 05, 2008 at 11:15 AM



“ I worked with Karen for a brief time at Kankakee Junior High  
School. ½She was working with a deaf student as an assistant.  
½Karen and I had a special connection while she was here.  
½We talked about personal things...depression, motherhood, and  
life in general. ½One of the things that impressed me so much is  
how Karen expressed her love for her family. ½She adored her  
children and spoke fondly of each of them and their unique  
personalities. ½She was accepting of them and loved them  
unconditionally. ½She also spoke of her love for her husband and  
understood how even though they saw some things differently, they  
respected one another. ½Karen's positive nature and outlook was  
contageous. ½Her life certainly mattered and she did good work  
while she was here. ½I feel fortunate to have shared just a little  
part of her life. ½I always felt that we could be good friends had  
we had more time to get to know one another. ½I'm so sorry she  
was taken so early. ½However, she would only want happiness  
and fulfillment for her husband and children. ½Sincerely,  
½Mona Hall, School Social Worker##imported-begin##Mona  
Hall##imported-end##

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July 05, 2008 at 11:15 AM



“ *I just want to say that I am sorry for your loss and that I pray the Lord will give you strength during this time. God Bless you.##imported-begin##Joi Locke##imported-end##*

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July 05, 2008 at 11:15 AM