



Dr. Kim Schafer Astroth

November 10, 1955 - September 4, 2023

Dr. Kim Schafer Astroth, age 67, of Normal passed away Monday, September 4, 2023 at the University of Chicago. She was born November 10, 1955 in Kankakee, the daughter of Donald H. & Elsie Mae (Kempen) Schafer.

Kim graduated from Illinois Wesleyan University in 1977 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. She earned a master's degree in Adult Health Nursing from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a PhD in Nursing Science from St. Louis University. Kim completed a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Behavioral Nursing Research from the Indiana University School of Nursing.

Kim most recently taught nursing at Mennonite College of Nursing (MCN) at Illinois State University where she was the Graduate Program Director. In that role, she initiated the BSN to DNP and BSN to PhD doctoral programs. She also oversaw the development of the Psych-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner post-master's certificate and the Nursing Leadership and Management sequence in the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program. She also was an experienced critical care nurse.

Kim was recognized for her research and has over 50 articles published in professional nursing and medical journals; she co-authored 5 textbooks. Kim presented at numerous professional conferences, nationally and internationally, including in Ireland, Australia, South Africa, and Puerto Rico. She received several awards; among those are MCN's Nurse of the Year, Outstanding College Researcher, Nephrology Nursing Journal's Research

Writing Award, and the Illinois Board of Higher Education's Nurse Educator Fellowship Award.

Kim was dedicated to her profession and to MCN and worked tirelessly to improve nursing education and patient care delivery. Kim was highly respected and loved by her colleagues and students. She touched the lives of thousands through her nursing and her teaching.

Kim was a member of Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society and an active member of Kappa Delta Sorority. She enjoyed traveling and spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren.

Surviving are two sons, Luke Astroth (Morgan Quick) of Bourbonnais and Seth Astroth of Phoenix, AZ; one daughter, Erin Astroth of Normal; three sisters and two brothers-in-law, Dianne & Terry Schaafsma of Bourbonnais, Judy Schafer Torres of Lindale, TX, and Ann & Keith Jensen of Clifton; three brothers and three sisters-in-law, David & Suzie Schafer of Kankakee, Dennis & Barb Schafer of Chebanse, and Dean & Elizabeth Schafer of Chebanse; three grandchildren, Liam Astroth, Louis Belt, and Cedric Belt; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. Kim is preceded in death by her parents and one sister, Dawn.

Visitation will be held from 2-6 p.m. on Sunday, September 10, 2023 at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Bourbonnais. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Monday, September 11, 2023 at St. Mary & Joseph Catholic Church in Chebanse. Rev. Vern Arseneau will celebrate the Mass. Interment will follow at St. Mary & Joseph Cemetery in Chebanse.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Illinois State University Foundation Kim Schafer Astroth Graduate Student Support Fund. Please include a reference on the check to Kim Schafer Astroth Graduate Student Support Fund.

Please sign her guestbook at www.clancygernon.com.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary & Joseph Cemetery

Chebanse, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 10. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.
295 Main St., NW
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Funeral Mass

SEP 11. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary & Joseph Catholic Church
525 S. Chestnut
Chebanse, IL 60922
(815) 697-2654

Tribute Wall

FI

“ To Kim's family,
On behalf of co-workers who knew Kim when she was at St. Mary Hospital in Quincy, IL we would like to extend our sincere sympathy for your loss.



Kim's name will be read at our semiannual lunch on Oct. 10, 2023 and we will keep her obituary in our Remembrance Book which has a place of honor for display at every luncheon . Know that she is remembered by all her friends from St. Mary Hospital.

Friends of St. Mary Hospital , Quincy, I - October 01, 2023 at 10:40 AM

CM

“ Cheri M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Kim Schafer Astroth.

Cheri M. - September 11, 2023 at 03:54 PM

SS

“ Kim and I worked together for over 20 years. I first met her when I was working at the hospital where she had students in clinical. I was amazed at her clinical and leadership skills. Over the years, I began to work for Mennonite at her recommendation. Instructing undergraduates in leadership clinicals, Kim always checked in on me in those first few semesters and was a resource to me moving forward. Kim and I then worked closely together in the DNP program and met regularly. I was amazed at her dedication and strength as she fought through her illnesses. She was a fighter and I will always remember and admire her.

Sandi Scheidenhelm

Sandra Scheidenhelm - September 11, 2023 at 02:42 PM

MS

“ Kim was my clinical instructor at MCN. What amazing person with an exceptional ability to envelope her students with knowledge.
Melanie S.

Melanie S. - September 11, 2023 at 02:32 AM

MD

“ Kim and I worked together at MCN for 20 years. Her strength, knowledge, and steadiness will long be remembered. I will miss working beside her. My deepest condolences to her family. She will be deeply missed.

Mary Dyck - September 10, 2023 at 06:59 PM

CS

“ Kim and I worked together in ICU at Mennonite Hospital in Bloomington in the early 1980's. We were baby nurses on the 3-11 shift learning together! We had so much fun together and enjoyed connecting once in awhile over the years. Kim was brilliant, beautiful, and fun. She will be missed! My prayers and condolences to her family who I know she adored.

Cindy Schaumburg - September 10, 2023 at 07:59 AM

SS

“ Deepest sympathy from the Sweeney family to the Shafer family. I have known Kim since first grade and went to CCD together at St.Mary&Joseph's in Chebanse. It was so good to see Kim and talk to her at our 50th class reunion. I walked with her to the parking lot on her way out for one more hug. Dave, Dennis,Dean, Dianne,Judy, Ann, spouses, kids, and grandkids - we share your loss and grief as we also lost one of ours last year that a number of you came to see off. I'm sorry that we can't be there to see you in person, but know that our thoughts and prayers are with you. Scott&Diane Sweeney

Scott Sweeney - September 09, 2023 at 09:47 PM

AP

“ I was in Kim's nursing class at Wesleyan and she was always so fun to be around. I saw her later at ISU and it was so good to see her and catch-up. She had a prolific nursing career and was loved by her students. My sincere sympathy and prayers to all the family. She was a treasure. Anne Padwojski

Anne Padwojski - September 09, 2023 at 08:04 PM

SB

“ Kim was a great friend to me and to my family when we lived in Normal..

Sheri Wernsing Botner - September 09, 2023 at 04:03 PM

RM

“ *Such a strong woman. Condolences to the family for your loss shared by so many. Kim made a difference. God has her by His side now. May she rest in peace.*



Rose Devine Mitchell - September 09, 2023 at 10:06 AM



“ *Comfort & Light 30" Sonnet was purchased for the family of Dr. Kim Schafer Astroth.*



September 09, 2023 at 05:11 AM

JM

“ *Jackie M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Kim Schafer Astroth.*

Jackie M. - September 08, 2023 at 09:26 PM

MC

“ *I'm so sorry for your loss. I went to school with Ann and recently had a chance to visit with her briefly. Love and prayers to all* ❤️ 🙏

Marty Cotter - September 08, 2023 at 04:43 PM

CB

“ *Sending support and deepest condolences to Kim’s family. While I wasn’t advised by her directly during her many years serving on Kappa Delta’s advisory board, she was thought of so positively by all of us. Her dedication to the group was remarkable. She will be so missed.*

Corbyn Beck - September 08, 2023 at 03:40 PM

MM

“ *My deepest condolences to Kim’s family.*

I met Kim through the Kappa Delta advisory board she served on when I was a collegian and then had the honor of later serving alongside her as an advisor. She was such a wonderful person, so dedicated to teaching and serving. Her commitment to our sisterhood and mentoring young women within it was beyond inspiring. She touched countless lives, mine included.

May her memory be eternal and her family find comfort in the beautiful legacy she left behind.

Marina Moore - September 08, 2023 at 03:01 PM