

Karen Derrick McMaster

March 18, 1938 ~ November 27, 2023

Our wonderful mother, grandmother, sister and friend, Karen Derrick McMaster, age 85, died on November 27, 2023, in Salt Lake City, Utah. She was born March 18, 1938, in Salt Lake City, to Frank Charles Symons Derrick and Ruth Heaps Derrick.

Every child- no matter what age, needs at least one significant adult who is irrationally positive about them. In our family, that has always been our mother and grandmother. She made us each feel like her favorite person in the world. We will miss her happy, ever-cheerful presence in our lives, but gratefully she taught us well how to live with faith and joy in the shadow of sadness. One of our mom's many superpowers was her ability to cultivate friendships. Part of our sadness as a family now is knowing how much our mom will be missed by all those she loved.

Karen spent a good portion of her life seated at the piano or organ. Without fanfare she graciously accompanied her kids, grandkids, friends, neighbors, and Church members. She was also an amazing hostess and party planner. We grew up thinking it was perfectly normal to celebrate with family on every conceivable occasion. Her Halloween costumes were epic, her pot roast and dinner rolls divine, and her classy sense of style was ever present. Mom was one of a kind and she will be missed dearly. She was also an amazing typist and used that ability along with her strong office communication skills to provide for herself working in legal offices throughout her life.

Karen married her high school sweetheart, Thomas W. McMaster, in the Salt Lake Temple on December 16, 1960. Together they created a happy home while living in Utah, Germany, and Kentucky. Their storybook love for one another is part of the wonderful legacy they passed on to their children. Regrettably, not all stories end when or how we want them to and for mom, hers took a sad turn when Tom died 26 years ago. The strength, independence, fierce love for family, and the unwavering faith she demonstrated during their long separation have been an inspiration to our family.

Karen believed that families can be together forever. That faith brought her peace, comfort, and assurance. She was never preachy or overbearing but our faith is stronger because of her genuine example. Karen is predeceased by her husband, Tom, her brother Craig Derrick, brother-in-law John S. McMaster, brother-in-law Reed George, and sister-in-law Diane McCoun. She is survived by her sister Christine George; brother-in-law Brent W. (Diane) McMaster; her children Steven T. (Carol); Todd D. (Michelle); Amy (Tim) Goates; and Richard S. (Marla); 19 grandchildren- Heather (Dan) Castellano, Nate (Jenna) McMaster, Jordan (Lola Garcia) McMaster, Melissa (Sean) Burnham, Caroline (Koy) Bennion, Jenna (Bryan) Jeppesen, Molly McMaster, Natalie (Tanner) DeVinny, Catherine (Trenton) Stapley; Sarah (Nicholas) Holton, Thomas (Cara) McMaster, Stuart (Amy) Goates, Tanner (Lizzy) Goates, Preston (Katie Hammes) Goates, Samuel (Emmy) Goates, Joshua Goates, Rachel (Dalyn) Dalton, Lydia

McMaster, Lucy McMaster; 25 great-grandchildren with at least 3 more on the way- Ethan, Benson, Samuel, Charlie, Clara, Owen, Lily, Mack, Eleanor, Annabel, Jace, Miles, Beau, Cooper, Oliver, Jack, Evelyn, Lucy, Adelaide, Ellen Marie, Louisa, Ingrid, Finn, Ezra, and Rory (all listed per Karen's request- her "most important accomplishment and joy!"); numerous nieces and nephews; and a bucketful of beloved friends.

Funeral services will be held at the Cottonwood Creek Ward, 1250 E. 4800 So., Salt Lake City, Utah 84117 at noon on Monday, December 4, 2023. Friends may call at the Cottonwood Creek Ward from 4- 6pm on Sunday, December 3, 2023, or prior to the funeral from 10:30-11:45am. Interment will be after the funeral at the Brigham City Cemetery starting at ~2:30pm.

The funeral services will also be streamed live, click the blue "Watch Services" tab at the top of the obituary page to enter the Zoom.