

# Karen Swalberg Roberts

*April 30, 1937 ~ December 26, 2024*

Karen Swalberg Roberts passed away at her home in South Jordan, Utah, on December 26, 2024, at the age of 87.

Born on April 30, 1937, in Cedar City, Utah, Karen was the eldest child of Helen Richards Swalberg and Fred Swalberg. She was later joined by a sister, Carma, and two brothers, Paul and Steve. Karen spent her entire childhood on the family farm in Marysvale, Utah. While she wasn't particularly fond of farming life, she chose homes later in life with open land and natural spaces, a reflection of her roots.

She married Donald G. Roberts on August 31, 1957, later divorced. Together, they had four children — Jeff, Terry, Jacqueline, and Mark — who were raised in their home in Taylorsville, Utah.

After graduating from Marysvale High School and attending a semester at what was then the College of Southern Utah, Karen began working for Mountain Bell as a telephone operator alongside her cousin and dear friend, Janice. She continued to work after her marriage and well into her first pregnancy before leaving. She returned to Mountain Bell about 20 years later, mostly in the JCL Computer Group, where she worked until her retirement in 1999.

As a devoted member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Karen cherished the many callings she held in Primary, Relief Society, and Young Women. She especially treasured her time as a temple worker, which brought her great joy and spiritual fulfillment.

Karen loved anything sweet, but she particularly enjoyed chocolate and Coca-Cola. She also had a lifelong affection for *Gone with the Wind*, fireworks, and spending time with her grandchildren, particularly during sleepovers and outings. She and her daughter Jackie shared a love of travel, and together they explored many destinations around the world, including the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Europe, South America, and Antarctica. Her favorite trip was to Sweden, the birthplace of her paternal grandmother and great-grandparents.

Karen had an incredibly generous heart, always putting the welfare of others before her own. Her highest priority in life was always her family, even until the very end. She devoted herself to her children and grandchildren, attending countless ball games, competitions, and recitals near and far— always their biggest supporter. Every child and grandchild visited her in her final days, and despite her declining health, she was able to express her great love for each of them.

Karen is survived by many beloved family members, including her four children: Jeff (Kathleen) in North Salt Lake, Terry (Cottonwood Heights), Jacqueline (S. Jordan), and Mark (Heidi) in S. Jordan; fivegrandchildren: Alivia, Alexa, Max, Tyler, and Sam; and three great-grandchildren: Ryder, Bodie, and June. She is also survived by her three siblings: Carma (Paul-deceased) Puffer, Paul (Sue Ann) Swalberg, and Steve (Karen) Swalberg, as well as many nieces, nephews,cousins, in-laws, and friends.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, January 3, at 11:00 a.m. at Larkin Sunset Gardens Mortuary, 1950 East 10600 South, Sandy, UT 84092. Friends and family may visit at 10:00 a.m. before the funeral service. Interment will follow at the Larkin Sunset Gardens Cemetery.

**Special Thanks**

The family would like to extend heartfelt gratitude to:

● Nysje, Danielle, and Janae at Utah Home and Hospice for their loving care and support in Karen’s final months

● Laine Sabey for years of home physical therapy

● The many neighbors who provided aid and support, especially Bishop Travis Jardine for always answering calls for assistance

● Lee, Brittney, Kelly, and the dozens of Meals on Wheels volunteers who faithfully delivered meals over the years, with a special thanks to Joni and Tina, who provided not only meals but also a listening ear and companionship

To watch the services remotely via Zoom please click the blue "Watch Services" button at the top of the obituary page.