

Merrill Francis O'Karma

April 11, 1947 ~ July 24, 2021

Merrill Francis O’Karma, doting father and grandfather, lit every room with his infectious laugh, unwavering generosity, and steadying presence. While he worked for many years at Western Airlines, Delta Airlines, and the University of Utah, he was proudest of his role as father to Amanda O’Karma Esko and Jillian O’Karma, and as grandfather to Pamela Grace Esko and Matthew Esko.

Merrill died unexpectedly in his Sandy, Utah home on July 24, 2021 in Sandy, Utah at the age of 74. Merrill is survived by his sister, Darlene Mattes; daughters, Amanda (Peter) Esko and Jillian (Austin Bracken) O’Karma; sons Brian O’Karma and Jayce(Jody) Witmer; father-in-law Wayne Brimner; and grandchildren, Pamela Grace and Matthew Esko, Chandler Leiber and Jackson Witmer. He is preceded in death by his loving wife, Pamela O’Karma, daughter Becky O’Karma, and his mother-in-law Patricia Brimner.

Merrill was born on April 11, 1947 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He married the love of his life, Pamela O’Karma, in 1978. A steadfast worker, Merrill aimed to make other people’s days easier, both in his airline work and with the University of Utah Student Apartments. Merrill’s presence universally put people at ease. His tall stature and joyous spirit overflowed with kindness and his quiet, happy smile radiated pride for his family. He loved Sunday dinners with his daughters, days out with his grandchildren, and any opportunity for a cruise.

A service will be held on July 30, 2021 at 10am at Mt Olivet Cemetery in Salt Lake City, to celebrate his wondrous life.

Merrill’s memory will live on in the stories and thoughts that people share, so please take a moment to do so.