



## Karen Patton Poehlein

September 13, 1941 - January 21, 2018

Karen Patton Poehlein, 76, passed away on January 21, 2018 in Asheville, NC after a brief illness. She was born in 1941 in Cleveland, Ohio to Donald and Mary Louise Patton and became a resident of Asheville in 1956, when her family relocated to Western North Carolina.

She graduated from St. Genevieve-of-the Pines Academy (Asheville). After spending two years at Dunbarton College (Washington DC), she graduated from Woman's College of the University of North Carolina (Greensboro). She earned her Elementary School Teaching Certificate, her Masters in Education and Educational Specialist degree from Western Carolina University.

Karen's love of learning continued through her entire life.

Karen worked in Buncombe County Schools for 35 years in several different roles – Elementary Teacher, Reading Specialist, Curriculum Specialist and even Buncombe County Spelling Bee word caller! After retiring from full-time work in 2005, she loved her part-time position at Grovewood Gallery in Asheville.

She was a life-long, avid reader and a master of counted-cross stitch – the more challenging, the better! She enjoyed water-aerobics, bridge and was an enthusiastic fan of the UNC Tar Heels. She enjoyed theater, regularly attending local productions and touring Broadway shows. Karen made keeping in touch with her friends and family a priority. Her “lunch calendar” was always full.

Karen loved traveling, making memorable trips to Ireland, Scandinavia, Russia and many wonderful destinations across the United States. Yosemite National Park was one of her favorites. However, times spent visiting family and friends – especially her cousins, aunts and uncles – were always at the top of the list.

Karen is survived by her daughter, Allison Ganzhorn (George); her brother Tim Patton (Margaret) of Charlotte and sister Kathleen Frech (Al) of Bridgeville, DE. She is also survived by nephews, Sean Patton (Rachel), Brian Patton (Sarah) and Michael Frech (Sue); nieces, Veronica Westover and Stephanie McConnell (Rustyn) and nine great-nieces and nephews.

The family will be receive friends and relatives at Morris Funeral Home, 304 Merrimon Ave., from 3:30 – 6:00 PM on Thursday, January 25. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at The Parish of St. Eugene, 72 Culvern Street, Asheville, NC at 11:00 AM on Friday, January 26.

As an alternative to flowers, memorial donations may be made to Asheville Catholic School (12 Culvern Street, Asheville, NC 28804) for support of the library or to the John F. Keever Solace Center (P.O. Box 5779, Asheville, NC 28813).

# Cemetery Details

## St. Eugene's Catholic Church Columbarium

72 Culvern Street  
Asheville, NC 28804

# Previous Events

## Family will Receive Friends

JAN **25**. 3:30 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Morris Funeral & Cremation Care  
304 Merrimon Ave.  
Asheville, NC 28801  
(828) 252-1821  
[info@morrisfamilycare.com](mailto:info@morrisfamilycare.com)  
<http://www.morrisfamilycare.com>

## Funeral Mass

JAN **26**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Eugene Catholic Church  
72 Culvern Street  
Asheville, NC 28801  
<http://www.steugene.org>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Morris Funeral & Cremation Care created a Tribute Video in memory of Karen Patton Poehlein*



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**Morris Funeral Home** - January 24, 2018 at 06:21 PM



“ *Karen Patton Poehlein*

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October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ *I knew Karen and Allison and Kathleen and other members of her family during the time I took communion to Karen's Mom, Mary Louise. Now I can no longer drive so there is no way I can drive to you all or come to the funeral. I can't come and tell you in person how much I admired Karen and will miss her; I can't give you in-person hugs. Be assured you are all in my thoughts and prayers. She was very, very special. Love and prayers,  
Lee Fowler*

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**Lee Fowler** - January 25, 2018 at 09:51 PM

BK

“ I enjoyed working with Karen at the Grovewood Gallery. She was a joyful person and always full of interesting ideas, thoughts and experiences. I appreciated her steadfast faith in God and we would often converse along those lines. Blessings to your family during your time of loss. Grace and Peace to you through Christ Our Lord!  
Bryan Koontz

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**Bryan Koontz** - January 25, 2018 at 12:08 PM

JG

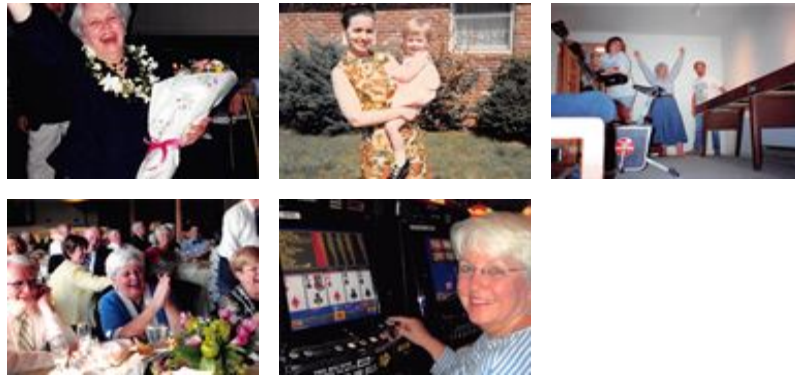
“ Allison,  
I worked with your mom for several years when I taught at Erwin Middle. She was the reading specialist at that time and steered us as we taught different reading levels, tested, and recorded results. I always found her to be a person with a good sense of humor and always ready with a big smile. I think she "loved" reading cards as much as we teachers did. Also, as mothers do, she spoke of you with great joy and pride. It was certainly my pleasure to work with Karen.  
Blessings to you,  
Judy Gibbs

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**Judy Gibbs** - January 24, 2018 at 09:52 PM



“ 101 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



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**Morris Funeral Home** - January 24, 2018 at 05:13 PM

JC

“ *Allison and George*  
*May you feel His comfort and peace during this difficult time. Please accept our deepest sympathy. You and your family will continue to be in our prayers.*  
*Jack and Marvelene Chapman and Jamee*

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**Jack Chapman** - January 24, 2018 at 03:48 PM

 Greg  
Vineyard

“ *I had the privilege of meeting Karen when I also worked part-time at Grovewood Gallery - her love of the place and camaraderie and humor were inspiring. My sincerest condolences to Karen's family and friends. Greg Vineyard, Asheville*

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**Greg Vineyard** - January 24, 2018 at 10:03 AM

BM

“ As the mother to our favorite babysitter, Allison, Karen was "Ms. Poehlein" to me and my siblings. She was always kind to the three of us, who were often in and out of her house in search of Allison, Barbie accessories, or a glass of water. She was matter-of-fact and straightforward, and never talked down to us, making an impression on me even then. I had the surprise of re-meeting her about 15 years ago as I checked in at her school to work with a student. After she saw my name tag and re-introduced herself, she seemed surprised that I remembered her at all. But in my mind, I could never forget her as I had seen her - a determined, self-confident, self-supporting woman. Sending love to her whole family, particularly to my still-favorite babysitter.

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**Brandon McDevitt** - January 24, 2018 at 12:38 AM

DM

Allison, Larry and I were out of town when your mom died or we would have been there. She raised a fabulous daughter. I agree with Brandon. We were blessed to be your neighbors and her friend. Xx.  
Dershie and Larry

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**dershie mcdevitt** - February 13, 2018 at 06:26 PM

BB

“ It is with the heaviest of hearts that I send my deepest sympathy to the family of Karen dinning.  
Karen was a joy to be with, and her presence will be greatly missed. She, my sister Marilyn Patton and their good friend Gita Binkley spent many wonderful evenings at Gita's--enjoying dinner, gossiping and laughing.  
I like to think that somewhere they are continuing their good times together.

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**Barbara Blomberg** - January 23, 2018 at 09:40 AM

BB

*I am so sorry that this was "corrected" by FaceBook. Of course, it should read "to the family of Karen Poehlein*

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**Barbara Blomberg** - January 23, 2018 at 09:42 AM

SD

*Karen and I shared a love for needlework. Some years ago she inspired me to join her swimming at the Grove Park Inn. Her smile, grace and an eagerness to serve others when needed was inspiring. More importantly, her spot on "our pew" at St. Eugene's will be sorely missed, but we will know that she will always be there in spirit! Our deepest condolences to her dear family. Sabine and John*

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**Sabine & John Dieringer** - January 24, 2018 at 07:50 PM

SD

*That should be Sabine & John Dieringer*

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**Sabine & John Dieringer** - January 24, 2018 at 07:51 PM

LI

“*Karen and I have been great friends for about forty years. One of the things we loved doing was going to plays. One time, after an especially enjoyable play at Flat Rock Playhouse, we were enjoying dinner at the Highland Lake Inn. I commented that we were so lucky to be able to have a day like that. She quickly responded that we were not only lucky but very blessed. And that was Karen. She was always so grateful for her life, her family and friends and her deep faith in God. She did enjoy her life! I can ONLY picture her smiling and laughing. She was very much loved and will be so missed.*

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**Linda** - January 22, 2018 at 02:31 PM