



Karen Schooler

November 22, 1952 - September 11, 2021

Karen Donese (Pruitt) Schooler, 68, was born in Holly Springs, MS in November of 1952. Her parents, Berkeley and Minnie Pruitt moved to Washington in 1955, settling in Okanogan where she graduated in 1971. After high school she attended Eastern Washington University earning a degree in Therapeutic Recreation.

After college Karen moved to Wenatchee and worked for non-profits such as the YWCA and The ARC. For Karen, the questions "How can I help? How can I serve?" always brought her to people with disabilities. She ran camps such as Camp Active, arranged softball games and bowling parties, thriving on the laughter and joy these activities brought.

When Karen met Bud Schooler, they were attracted to one another because of their mutual love for people with a disability. Her intelligence and sense of humor impressed him, and led to long conversations. She married Bud in 1982 and they raised their three sons: Steve, Michael and Nathan in East Wenatchee. Her boys brought a new element of non-stop excitement into her life with all of their various activities.

With her gift of service to others, Karen found her true calling as a Paraeducator in Special Education for the Wenatchee School District. She worked first for Headstart, then transitioned to the High School Special

Education classes. For her students, Karen's help often meant the difference between graduating or not. She was honored to be asked by a couple of her students to be on stage during their graduation.

Karen treasured her lifelong friends and devoted her life to her family. Her four grandchildren brought out her inner-child and she loved every minute she spent with them.

She passed away September 11, 2021 after a brief struggle with heart issues. She had such a big heart for all of us that maybe there wasn't enough left over for herself.

Karen was preceded in death by her parents: C. Berkeley Pruitt and Minnie Evelyn Pruitt of East Wenatchee. She leaves behind her husband Lyman "Bud" Schooler of East Wenatchee; her sons: Steven (Aneya) Schooler of East Wenatchee; Michael Schooler of East Wenatchee; Nathan Schooler of Ephrata; her sister Kristi (Gary) Atwood of Vancouver, WA; and her four beautiful grandchildren, as well as many cousins and their families.

A graveside service will be held Saturday, October 2, 2021, at 11:00am at Evergreen Memorial Park, 1301 10th NE, East Wenatchee, WA 98802. A reception will follow.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Shriners Children's or to Special Olympics Washington.

Arrangements are being made by Chapel of the Valley in East Wenatchee.

Tribute Wall

OL

“ Karen was my grandma. She was the sweetest. When she came, she always did 2 things: she always sang "Somewhere over the rainbow" and brought at least 2 cans of chicken noodle soup. Now we are low on chicken soup and her. But we will always remember.

olivia - May 05 at 05:04 PM

BE

“ I am stepping out of my comfort zone here so bare with me. This is hard for a lot of us. Saying good-bye to a family member is not easy. Yes, Karen was a family member of all Wenatchee High School students and staff. I sill half way expect to see her walking down the hall with her arms loaded with books. Karen was always the calm in the storm. She will be greatly missed.

Brenda Ellwood - October 01, 2021 at 04:04 PM

AO

“ My first year working at Wenatchee High School I was eating lunch in my car enjoying the sunshine. I hadn't met Karen yet but I had seen her around the school. Out of the blue she opens up the door to my car and gets in the passenger seat and says "let's go!" We were both taken by surprise and she quickly realized that she had gotten in the wrong car, she was supposed to get in the car with her friend and go to lunch! We laughed a lot about that and every time I would pass her in the hallways after that she would say something like, "Don't let any strangers in your car now!" I always found Karen to be incredibly sweet, friendly and made me feel at home in a big school where I was the "newbie". Thank you, Karen! I miss seeing your smiling face around here.

Alex Ortega - October 01, 2021 at 01:31 PM

PD

“ Dear Karen's Family -

I was so sorry to hear about Karen's passing. I am the librarian here at WHS, and I was honored to work with her for many years.

We shared many cups of coffee from the library workroom coffee pot, and had many good laughs as we searched for her keys!

I often observed her working diligently with her students in the library. She did not give up on them even when I could see they were not overly motivated and were acting in a challenging manner. She just continued to calmly and quietly work with them. I think she had the patience of Job!

One thing that impressed me about Karen was that she continued her higher education studies and earned her teaching degree - all while continuing to work full-time in the Special Ed. department. What tenacity and determination!!

I will always remember her warm, friendly smile. I know you miss her greatly. May you be comforted to know that she was a well loved colleague here at Wenatchee High School, and that we all miss her as well.

Patricia Devereaux

Patricia Devereaux - October 01, 2021 at 11:27 AM

SS

“ Oh Karen, you are so missed! You had such a heart of gold, wrapped in a humble servant's package.
I will always remember your quiet strength, patience, and calm in all situations. We loved your photography - the beautiful sunsets you shared. Nature on display. Pictures of birds flying overhead (you were the only one I knew who truly understood Bob's desire to turn a camera heavenward to catch an eagle, hawk, or dove fly by). Your pride in that baby cradle lovingly made by Berk. Your ability to handle three boisterous boys! Oh my!!! Supporting Special students in school so many years. Tenderness, inspirational, uplifting, comforting, genuineness, loving, patience are words that come to mind at the mention of your name. Best sister in law!!! Bud married a true gem when he found you.
I am better off because you were here among us.
Good night dear Karen. Rest in the Lord's arms until we all meet again. Breathe deeply in the rarefied air of Heaven.
Matthew 25:21(paraphrased) Your Lord says to Karen, Well done, you good and faithful servant: you have been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter now into the Joy of the Lord.
Susan Schooler and family

Susan Schooler - October 01, 2021 at 05:47 AM

SB

“ I had the great fortune and honor to work closely with Karen at WHS for 10 years as she was my main Paraeducator in my classes during the last decade of my teaching career. As I told her on numerous occasions, I/we would not have reached what I thought was a great level of success without her! Because of her consistent hard work, attendance, expertise, and sincere desire to help ALL my/our students succeed, not only the Special Ed students, as we experienced very few student failures during this time period, and for those very few who didn't pass it was because THEY gave up and NOT Karen or myself. Karen was an incredibly supportive and reaffirming Paraeducator who was able to tolerate, support, and validate my eccentricities so that we could work hard together to help our students succeed. This is because student success in passing their classes and earning their diplomas was always Karen's top priority and enabled us to be virtually always on the same page to get our kiddos to that Graduation Ceremony to earn that coveted honor they had been working so hard for for so many years. Students responded very positively to her sincere caring and compassion for them, as they greatly appreciated her relaxed, laid back (mostly), positive, supportive, and complimentary style that focused on their positive skills and knowledge and never on the negatives. I will forever remember the fun, rewarding, and successful time we worked together, including many of the specific students we were together able to help. This includes the many times she worked beyond the regular/contractual student day, as much as an hour at times, to help these students graduate! I will also remember the many discussions we had about our families, politics, and society, which was very fitting and applicable in the social studies classes we were working in together. Karen regularly asked about how my wife Michelle and sons Marcus and Thomas were doing, showing sincere care and concern for them. In fact, the relationship between Karen and her kids and my wife and our sons goes way back to when they volunteered in Toddle Time Preschool in the late 1980s/early 1990s. My wife and I were deeply moved by the news of her passing and she will be in our hearts forever. Rest In Peace, Karen.

Scott Benner - October 01, 2021 at 12:22 AM

AM

“Karen and I had become good friends over the years, working together at WHS and being part of the same "lunch bunch" we enjoyed catching up on those crazy afternoons over whatever we had brought to share together that day...I enjoyed hearing about her grandchildren's adventures, and she was always eager to stop by my office to show me her latest pictures of their time together. Karen never complained, and brought joy to students and staff alike. Her calm spirit will be greatly missed.

Amy McCubbin - September 30, 2021 at 07:36 PM

JP

“Mrs. Schooler was a nice and kind woman, she always was willing to help me and believed in me even if I didn't believe in myself. Mrs. Schooler always kinda made my day a bit better, she always cared about everyone around her and always was a bright light. I'm going to miss that light and I'm going to miss her as well.

jamie ponce - September 30, 2021 at 06:14 PM

EF

“ Karen was a sweetheart. For me she was a real oasis of gentleness and quietude amid a sea of youthful clamor. She truly cared about the kids she worked with and her selfless, mild-mannered way always lent, I think, a bit of calmness to their busy days. In frustrating circumstances, she seemed to me to have an endless supply of patience, which made her excellent at her job. I had lunch with her almost every day and I never knew her to say an unkind word about anyone. Nor did she waste time complaining about things that couldn't be changed. Of course I regret terribly not having appreciated her more while she was with us. I wish I could tell her now how much her presence here bolstered my mood and improved my days. It's strange the way I miss her. She was like some lovely, calming background music that you don't really notice too much while it's playing, but when it's turned off you're left with a feeling that something is sadly lacking. There's a stagnation in the air that will take a long time to recede. So, since I didn't say it when I should have, I will say it now: Thank you Karen. Thank you so much for spending some of your precious lifetime here with us, for putting up with my immaturity and intolerance and for just being you. You are missed.

Erika Fudge - September 30, 2021 at 05:14 PM

SB

“ Karen was so supportive of me and my students. "Going above and beyond" was just her norm. Karen was a beautiful person inside and out and always lifted my spirits and brought a smile to my face. She will be greatly missed.

Sunny Bittle - September 30, 2021 at 04:51 PM

KJ

“ Karen was one of the most dedicated educators I have ever known. She put others' needs above her own day after day, week after week, year after year. Karen gave everything she had to the people she supported. I am a better teacher - and a better human being - for having known her. I am so grateful for her generosity, her care, her example, and her life.

Katie Johnson - September 30, 2021 at 02:13 PM

CM

“ I only recently met Karen; it's been a few years. I am so grateful for her welcome to a new place; we worked together at Wenatchee High School as paraeducators. My son Robby had the opportunity to work with her and he'll agree with me when I say, she was relentless in her support to help him succeed. I am so thankful to have known her.

Cindy Martinez-Corrick - September 30, 2021 at 11:31 AM

MS

“ I remember when I first met karen she was working for the arc I was having an issue with something and she helped me and we had been friends ever since I will miss you always karen love mj

Mj sizemore - September 23, 2021 at 03:43 PM

MS

“ Karen Schooler

Mj sizemore - September 23, 2021 at 03:39 PM

DO

“Karen, my very own Mrs. Schoolier...
A tiny raging fire of determination for the kids to succeed. She never failed to have faith in our students, all of them. Karen fought for them and with them to support them learning. She was a light in my classroom and my life, one that will never be extinguished. I will miss her forever.

With much respect,
Danielle Ouellette and sons
Charles T.
Eric
Jon Pate

Danielle Ouellette - September 20, 2021 at 05:55 PM

TS

“Karen was a great help to me when I was teaching Kindergarten at Cascade elementary when Steven, Nathan and Michael were in my class. . I am very sorry for this loss.
Terry (Coon) Sloan

Terry Sloan - September 14, 2021 at 06:57 PM