



Karen J. Okerson

June 4, 1945 - October 28, 2023

Karen J. Okerson, age 78 years, a resident of rural Vienna, passed away Saturday morning, October 28, 2023, at 4 AM at her home.

Karen was born June 4, 1945 in the Rosebud community in Pope Co. Illinois. She was the daughter of John and Vivian (Bennett) Blanchard.

On February 4, 1964, Karen was united in marriage to Albert L. Prince. He preceded her in death on January 17, 1998. On June 12, 1999, Karen was united in marriage to John C. Okerson at the Dixon Springs Baptist Church. He survives.

Karen is also survived by: 4 children – Johnny Lee (his wife, Jennifer) Prince of Mahomet, Illinois, Anita Lynn (her husband, Don) Gustaitis of Kewanee, Illinois, Martha (her husband, Danny) Caraker of Pleasant Shade, Tennessee, and Theresa (her husband, Chester) Abramowicz of Murray, Kentucky; 14 grandchildren; 23 great grandchildren; and a brother Ronald Blanchard of the Rosebud community.

In addition to her parents and first husband, Karen was preceded in death by

a brother –
Rodney Blanchard and a sister – Joan Davis.

Karen was a graduate of the Rosebud Grade School, the Pope County Community High School, and attended Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Karen was employed by Normady Manufacturing as a seamstress. She later was employed as an office manager by National Wound Care in Paducah and Metropolis.

Karen was a faithful member of the First Baptist Church in Vienna, where she also was active in the Women's Missionary Union and taught Sunday School. Karen was also a member of the Pond Ladies Club.

A funeral service honoring the life of Karen J. Okerson will be conducted Friday afternoon, November 3, 2023, at 12 Noon at the First Baptist Church, 301 N. 7th Street, Vienna, Illinois. Pastor Brian Lingle and Pastor Kevin Richerson will officiate.

Burial will be in the Independence Cemetery in Pope County Illinois.

Visitation will be held Friday morning, November 3, 2023, from 10 AM – 12 Noon at the First Baptist Church.

Memorials may be made to the First Baptist Church (Building Fund), P.O. Box

727, Vienna,
Illinois 62995.

Cemetery Details

Independence Cemetery

266 Clanahan Road
Golconda, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 3. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church
7th & Washington St.
Vienna, IL

Service

NOV 3. 12:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church
7th & Washington St.
Vienna, IL

Tribute Wall



“ *In Loving Memory of Karen*

Karen was a cherished childhood friend. She brought immeasurable joy to many of our lives. Her warm smile, kind heart, and unwavering support enriched our journey together. She was uniquely able to find wonder in the "everyday" and inspire us to live fully.

Though she's no longer with us, her memory lives on in our hearts. Karen, you were a wonderful friend, deeply cared for and dearly missed. Rest in peace, dear friend.

Steven "Stevie" Smith

Steven Smith - November 03, 2023 at 02:00 PM

LK

“ *Linda Koehler lit a candle in memory of Karen J. Okerson*



Linda Koehler - October 31, 2023 at 07:23 PM

RA

“ *Lots of great memories. Karen was one of the kindest and most compassionate people I've ever met. May God surround John and Anita and the rest of this family with his love during this time.*

Rick Allen - October 31, 2023 at 11:55 AM

RH

“ Rick & Regina & Joe Allen, Heath Hooks purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Karen J. Okerson.



Rick & Regina & Joe Allen, Heath Hooks - October 31, 2023 at 11:49 AM

DP

“ Oh Jon, I am so sorry. Your mother was such a kind, fun person. You and yours are in our prayers.

Davis And Pat Prewitt - October 31, 2023 at 05:45 AM

BJ

“ Barbara Jeffress lit a candle in memory of Karen J. Okerson



Barbara Jeffress - October 30, 2023 at 09:58 PM

PB

“ Patsy Blankenship lit a candle in memory of Karen J. Okerson



Patsy Blankenship - October 30, 2023 at 07:27 PM

JB

“ I lived in Big Bay and she use to take me to church on Sundays and we would ride bikes all over. I loved her peonies she grew. She was such a sweet person and a kind soul. Rest easy my friend.

Jennifer Tuey Barbee - October 30, 2023 at 06:32 PM

KB

“ Karen Brumley lit a candle in memory of Karen J. Okerson



Karen Brumley - October 30, 2023 at 05:56 PM