



Ms. Karen Marie Keen

March 13, 1952 - January 9, 2026

Karen Marie Keen passed away on January 9, 2026, in New Orleans, lovingly cared for by her only son, Joseph Keen.

Born on March 13, 1952, Karen was a lifelong resident of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, until 2022, when she moved to New Orleans to be closer to her son and his family. A graduate of Pittsfield High School, she went on to earn her nursing degree and became one of the first nurses in Pittsfield to complete her training while managing Type 1 diabetes - a condition she expertly managed since age 8.

Karen was a fiercely devoted mother to her beloved son, Joseph, supporting him and feeling immense pride in all he accomplished. She traveled to visit him wherever he lived—including Alaska, Colorado, Maine, California, Seattle, Atlanta, and finally New Orleans, where he now lives with his wife, Megan, and their three children: Rhodes (12), Sander (10), and Clayton (10). To her grandchildren, she was lovingly known as “Noni.

She was a dedicated and loving daughter to George and Mary Intelisano, who preceded her in death, as well as her older brother, Georgie Intelisano and sister-in-law Maureen Intelisano. Her youngest brother, David Intelisano, is her only surviving sibling, along with her niece, Kelly (Tim) and nephews, David (Brittanie) Mark (Trisha). She is also survived by her longtime

companion, James Salvatore, with whom she enjoyed many trips to Maine and Saratoga, and who provided loving support until the very end.

Karen dedicated her life to caring for others, serving as a nurse at Berkshire Medical Center for 50 years. Known for her crisp white traditional nurse's hat and skirt, and a tough, but compassionate bedside manner, she left a lasting impression on everyone she cared for. She was also renowned for her Italian cooking—especially her lasagna, meatballs and sauce, cheesecake, and famous Italian cookies. Karen will be deeply missed by her friends and family.

Funeral Notice:

Funeral services for Karen will be Saturday, January 31, 2026, at 10am at the Dwyer Funeral Home, 776 North Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201. Burial will follow at St. Joseph Cemetery. Calling hours at the funeral home will be directly prior to the service, from 8am to 10am.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the American Diabetes Association, in care of the Dwyer Funeral Home.

Cemetery Details

St. Joseph Cemetery

222 Peck's Rd.
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 31. 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Dwyer Family Funeral Home
776 North Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413) 442-5094
info@dwyerfuneral.com
<https://www.dwyerfuneral.com/>

Service

JAN 31. 10:00 AM (ET)

Dwyer Family Funeral Home
776 North Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413) 442-5094
info@dwyerfuneral.com
<https://www.dwyerfuneral.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ 52 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Dwyer Funeral Home Inc. - January 30 at 05:16 PM

OF

“ *Ochsner Neurosurgery Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Ms. Karen Marie Keen.*



Ochsner Neurosurgery Family - January 27 at 11:29 PM

JK

“ *Joy, Eric, Jan, and Keith purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ms. Karen Marie Keen.*



Joy, Eric, Jan, and Keith - January 26 at 01:36 PM

LN

“ Love you and miss you, Karen!



Lynn Noel - January 25 at 08:08 PM

MO

“ On behalf of Massachusetts Nurses Honor Guard Ann Os Watch To the Family & Friends of Nurse Karen Marie Keen know we express our sincerest condolences and deepest sympathies. Thank you, Nurse Karen for your outstanding dedication, and service to nursing, a career that reflected your empathy, caring, kindness, and compassion. Thank you for your love and service to others. Your nurse colleagues: Brothers and Sisters will take over from here. May you rest in peace. May fond memories of you live on.



*Massachusetts Nurses Honor Guard Ann Os Watch
help@nurseshonorguardma.com*

Honoring Nurses who have dedicated their lives to the Profession of Nursing

Massachusetts Nurses Honor Guard Ann O's - January 25 at 04:19 PM

MD

“ Dear Megan and Joe,
I feel like I know you both because of your beautiful Mom!
Joe..Karen was beyond ecstatic when you became a neurosurgeon!
I remember her telling me in tears! And when Rhodes was born and
then your twins were born! I have twin daughters! I saw so many
pics & videos and loved seeing them! She loved her family SO
much!
I am an IV RN and had the greatest pleasure & honor of working
with Karen for years! She was a one in a million woman and
practicing nurse of 50 years! Incredible! She wore her white dress
uniform & nursing hat with enormous pride! She cared for her
patients as they were her family and provided them with the highest
of nursing standards! And her patients adored her! She was greatly
respected and loved by all her colleagues!
I am so deeply sorry for your loss of your Mom & “Noni.”You are all
in my thoughts and prayers! God Bless Karen!

marianne duane-handerek - January 24 at 09:36 PM

JS

“ Dear Joe, Please know that you, Megan, Rhodes, Sander, Clayton,
David and extended family are in my heart and prayer. So very
sorry to read about your Mom, Noni and Sister - a very special
women.
So glad to read that you had the blessing of having her living closer
to you.
Love,
Julie Sullivan, SSJ

julia Sullivan, ssj - January 17 at 01:20 PM

JK

“ 1 file added to the album KAREN



Joseph Keen - January 16 at 12:43 AM

HK

“ My condolences go out to Karen's family on your loss.
I was lucky enough to work with Karen at BMC for decades! She was incredibly hard-working and dependable. I always knew my post op patients were going to get great care and attention. She was always happy to give me input on the patients and how to best care for them!

She loved her "old-school uniform" and felt it represented the dedication and the professionalism of her calling. She always made herself available when I rounded on the floor and loved to catch up on my family as well as her own. She was so incredibly proud of her son and most of us got to hear constant updates on his accomplishments!

May her memory be a blessing!

Herb Kantor M.D.

Herb Kantor - January 15 at 02:04 PM

D-

My deepest condolences to you and the family the time I spent with Ms Karen will forever be with me , she made me feel like part of the family her wanting me around her all the time , May she rest in peace 🙏

Dionne Spain -Davis - January 19 at 06:57 PM

GH

“ I was deeply saddened to hear about the loss of Karean. I've known her since our school days, and she was such a close friend to my sister — those memories have stayed with me over the years. I also remember the time you and I worked together at the Pittsfield Water Department, and I know how much she meant to you and how many years you shared together.

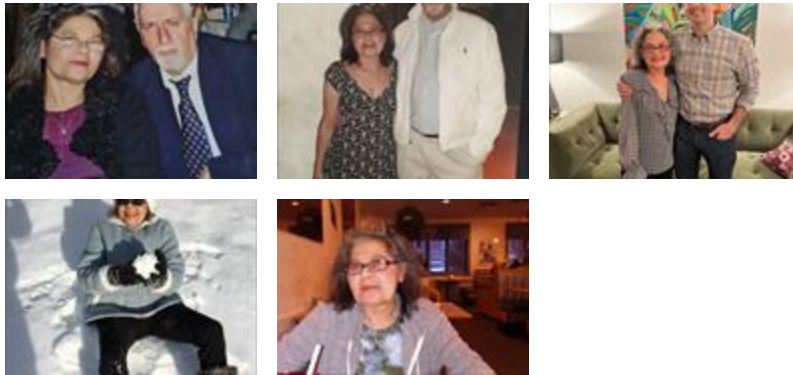
Please accept my heartfelt sympathy. I also want to extend my condolences to her son, Joey. I didn't have the chance to know him, but I hope he can find strength in the love his mother gave and in the support of those around him. And to her brother David — whom I knew from my time driving truck — I send my sincere sympathy as well. Losing a sister is a heavy burden, and I hope he finds comfort in the memories they shared.

You're all in my thoughts during this difficult time

Gary Lawrence Hopkins - January 15 at 09:03 AM

LN

“ 5 files added to the album KAREN



Lynn Noel - January 14 at 08:52 PM

LS

“ I absolutely loved working with Karen on the Orthopedic floor, and she always greeted me with "hello nurse" too despite me being a PT, like an honorary greeting. She was a ball of fire and a lot of fun. We all feel a bit like we know you, Joey, from her telling us of your dedication and work, with so much joy and pride. She is missed!

Laura Sexton - January 14 at 06:59 PM

WD

“ What an amazing person Karen was. As a new nurse she was so good to me, taught me the ropes of orthopedic nursing. Karen always had a laugh for you and the gift of gab. She fought ferociously for appropriate care for her patients. You were definitely fortunate if she was your nurse. Everyone at the hospital new her as "the nurse with the hat." I am grateful for the many memories I have of her. I'm sure you know Joe but you were her proudest achievement which she shared with all of us. Rest in peace Karen...you were an inspiration.

Wanda Prentice Diorio - January 14 at 06:58 PM

SD

“ Joe and family, I am so very sorry for your loss. Karen was such a pleasure to work with. Many shifts we worked side by side and she always made me smile. Once, just once she forgot her famous white nurses cap after taking it home to clean. She had to run home to get it so we could concentrate on work. As a neighbor she was the best, friendly, kind, and always checking in with everyone. I will always remember her as one of the greatest nurses that I had the privilege to work with and call my friend.

Sandi Darrow - January 14 at 04:26 PM

JB

“ Sorry to hear of Karen's passing. We worked together at BMC for many years. She always was sharp and received many compliments on her all white uniform and cap. She said she worked hard to become a nurse and was proud to wear it. I probably learned more about diabetes from Karen than I did in school. Patients were lucky to have had Karen as their nurse and I was lucky to know her. My condolences to her family and friends.

John Brower - January 14 at 02:33 PM

BS

“ I am so sorry to hear this,I ,worked with Karen on the 2EB ortho for years,and ,she was so proud of you Joe, ,very sorry for your loss

barbara scanlon - January 14 at 01:43 PM

JH

“ I was so sad to read that Karen had passed away. I worked with her at BMC in the early '90's and would be sent there to help out, even though I worked on Maternity at the time. She always greeted me with "Hello nurse." What an accomplishment she had, 50 years at BMC. Rest In Peace my friend.
Judy Herrick

Judy Herrick - January 14 at 10:49 AM

LC

“ Joey, so very sorry to hear of the passing of your mom.
Lori Cote



lori cote - January 14 at 09:52 AM

LC

“ Condolences to her family may she rest in peace with her parents and brother George

Linda Carter - January 14 at 08:16 AM

JH

“ I was so sad to see that Karen had passed away. I worked with her at BMC in the early '90's and then I used to float into her unit from Maternity after that. She always met me with a "Hello, nurse" when I saw her. What a accomplishment- 50 years- at BMC. Rest in peace my friend.

Judy Herrick - January 14 at 08:15 AM

SD

“ Joe and family,

I am sorry to hear of your loss. I have fond memories growing up on as a kid on Sadler Ave with Ms. Keen as a neighbor. She was always so kind to all the neighborhood kids.

Shaun Darrow

Shaun Darrow - January 14 at 07:26 AM

LS

“ My deepest sympathy, Joe, on the loss of your mom. I have so many memories from the CYC and Sacred Heart, Notre Dame and St Joe High years. Not to forget what a great nurse she was at BMC. In my thoughts and prayers.

Luanne Savino

Luanne Savino - January 13 at 07:47 PM

LN

“ 1 file added to the album KAREN



Lynn Noel - January 13 at 09:56 AM

LN

“ 1 file added to the album KAREN



Lynn Noel - January 13 at 09:54 AM