

Karen Marie Koval

SEP 13, 1953 - MAY 28, 2025



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Karen Marie Koval

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Karen Marie Koval, age 71, from Fruitport, passed away on May 28, 2025. Karen was diagnosed with Mosaic Down Syndrome at a very young age. She was born with a hole in her heart and needed several surgeries to repair this condition. She survived breast cancer, came through brain stem surgery like a champ, and survived other health issues throughout her lifetime. Karen lived fifty years beyond all expectations. She passed as only Karen would, marching to the tune of her own bassoon while playing, “You ain’t nothin’ but a hound dog,” dancing in her blue suede shoes. She was born on September 13, 1953, in Grand Haven, Michigan, to the late Kathryn (Tufts) and Leonard Koval. Karen graduated from Grand Haven High School in 1972.

Karen traveled extensively with her parents. She was a talented pianist, an avid crocheter, a keen card and bingo player, and enjoyed playing video games and watching movies. She was known for her vivid blue eyeshadow and larger-than-life black sunglasses. She was most content cradling babies and caring for her beloved cat, Asia, until Asia preceded her in death. She loved all things colorful, but she especially loved Elvis. Karen was known to give the Polish toast at family gatherings, so here’s to you, Karen, Nostrovia!

Karen is survived by her sisters, Mary Mendiola, and Leijhi Koval; her brother, Jerome Koval (Janelle); her nieces, Angelica Mendiola (Lance Riggs), Amber Mendiola-Suarez (Jason), and Lori Davis (Jim); her nephews, Brendan McLaughlin, Dalen Mendiola (Amanda), Glen Stewart (Melisa Timm); several great nieces, and a great nephew, and a bonus sister, Tammi Tufts. She was preceded in death by her parents, her baby brother, Daniel Defoe Koval, and her brother-in-law, Valentine Mendiola.

There will be a private graveside service held for the immediate family only. Arrangements entrusted to The VanZantwick Chapel of Sytsema Funeral &



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Cremation Services, 620 Washington Ave., Grand Haven, MI 49417. Share memories with the family at their online guest book at www.sytsemafh.com.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Karen's name to the Momentum Center at 401 North 7th Street, Grand Haven, MI 49417.




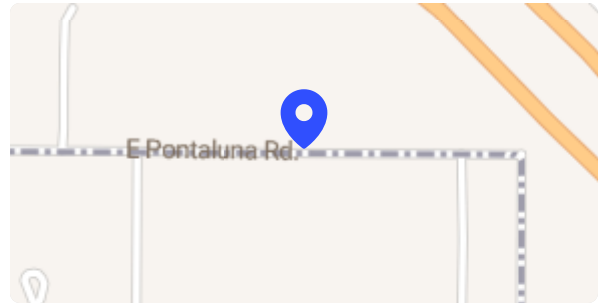
Events

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Cemetery Details

 **Fruitport Pine Hill Cemetery**
3903 E. Pontaluna, Fruitport MI 49415





Tribute Wall

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Belle Okerlund posted:

To Karen's family, I am sorry for your loss Karen was incredibly wonderful. I was her 3rd shift nurse at Christian Care, Karen would always say "I love you" before I left her room. She went above and beyond to make sure everyone knew they were special. She will always have a special place in my heart.

June 2 at 5:12 PM



Leijhi Koval posted:

I miss you Moshie, and every time I play an Elvis tune I will think of you ❤️ LK

June 2 at 9:27 AM



Mary Spalding posted:

Sending Love and Light to Karen's family. What a beautiful tribute. I would have loved to know her. Holding all close to heart. Mary and T

May 30 at 10:28 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Karen by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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