



Maryann (Kapla) Karnitz

MAR 5, 1940 - SEP 10, 2025



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Maryann (Kapla) Karnitz

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Maryann (Kapla) Karnitz, age 85, passed away peacefully at Poppen House on September 10, 2025, in Muskegon, MI. Maryann was born March 5, 1940, in Muskegon, MI, daughter of Harry and June (Hopka) Kapla. She graduated from Muskegon Catholic Central in 1958 and earned a certification in radiology from Hackley Nursing School shortly following. She married W. James Karnitz on October 24, 1959.

Maryann's life was an example of resiliency and courage. A polio survivor at age eight, she was told by her doctors she would likely not walk or bear children. Yet, walk she did, she traveled the world, raised three boys, and loved to say, "don't ever let anyone tell you that you can't do something."

Maryann devoted her early married life to creating a stable, caring and nurturing home environment for her young family, managing the ins and outs for band practices, sports schedules and feeding three boys and their dad. At one point, Jim's job allowed them to adventure to Liege, Belgium for two years, which served as the family's base to explore Europe. Upon their return stateside, other jobs gave them the opportunity to travel to various other places in the country and to Mexico.

Maryann enjoyed family camping trips, spending time at large extended family gatherings in the Muskegon area, "splitting beers" at the kitchen table with her friends on Center Street, and sharing stories with friends around the campfire in Onekama. She always welcomed friends and family openly into her home, especially for birthday celebrations and during the Christmas season. After retirement, she and Jim spent many years traveling the country in their RV and especially loved the Gulf Coast of Mississippi.

Maryann loved every time her phone rang with her children, grandchildren, family and friends on the other end with stories, successes or just to say hello. She was a trusted, intentional listener who made all who knew her feel cherished.



Obituary

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Almost as much as Maryann loved her family and friends, she loved the Detroit Tigers (maybe sometimes more), avidly watching every game.

Following her move to Christian Care Center in Muskegon in the summer of 2020, Maryann found a new family with her special caregivers and her resident neighbors, where she became a trusted confidant and caring advocate for all of those around her.

Maryann was preceded in death by her parents, husband Jim, infant daughter Therese, and sisters Susie, Judy and Kathy. Maryann is survived by her children, Tim (Kim) of Elk River, MN, Ted (Sue) of Norton Shores, and Thomas of Lake Charles, LA; six grandchildren and six great grandchildren; her lifelong neighbors on Center Street; nieces, nephews, cousins, countless other friends, and a special angel in her life, Kaye Schaeffer.

Services celebrating the life of Maryann will be 11AM Monday, September 15, 2025 at The Lee Chapel of Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services, 6291 S. Harvey St. Norton Shores, MI 49441. (231) 798-1100. Visitation with the family will be one hour prior to the service, from 10-11AM.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to [The Comfort Home](#), 204 N Patterson Road, Reed City, MI 49677. Share memories with the family online at <https://www.sytsemafh.com>.



Events


Maryann (Kapla) Karnitz

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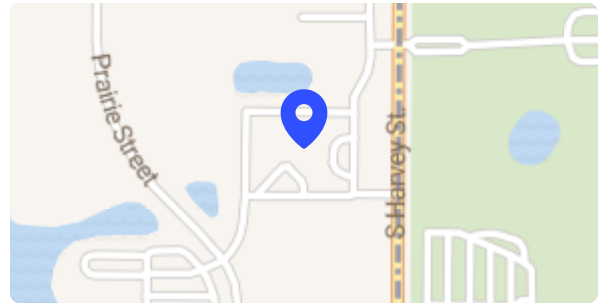
Visitation

 **Monday**, September 15, 2025

 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM ET


 **Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services - The Lee Chapel**

6291 Harvey St., Norton Shores MI 49444



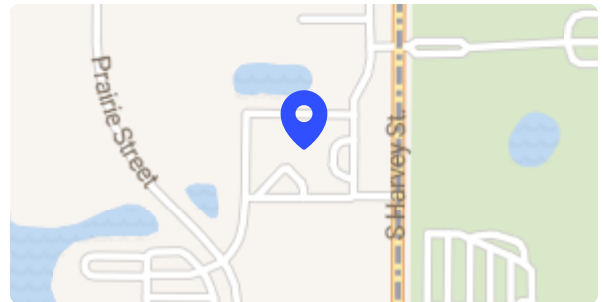
Memorial Service

 **Monday**, September 15, 2025

 11:00 AM ET

 **Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services - The Lee Chapel**

6291 Harvey St., Norton Shores MI 49444





Tribute Wall

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Linda Honey lit a candle in honor of Maryann.

I met Maryanne 2. years ago when my mom went into Christian Care Nursing home. We quickly became friends, every day Maryanne would sit with my mom until we got there, she was a advocate for many who could not speak up. She was more than a friend to me, she was like a 2nd mom, I already miss our talks, and her smiling face...my heart is broken.....R.I.P Maryanne...I love you!



September 13 at 8:02 PM



Barb Hicks Karnitz shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Memories of our first cruise. Amazing memories with an adventurous woman.



September 13 at 9:42 AM



Barb Hicks Karnitz shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Great memories of our very first cruise with an amazing woman Maryann was always up for an adventure he left you OK so I'm gonna



September 13 at 9:41 AM



Judi Delis posted:

Ted, very sorry for your loss! Sending prayers for you and your family!

September 12 at 2:29 PM



Malia Huffman shared 4 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Aunt Maryann was an angel/superhero on earth. I will miss her beautiful smile, her amazing laugh and voice, and her all around positive spirit. May she rest in God's holy peace, reunited with her sisters at long last. Sending all my love and strength to the Karnitz/Kapla families and friends of our dearest Aunt/Mother/Grandma/friend.



September 11 at 11:38 PM



Media

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Memories only last if you share them

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



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