



Karen Ann Boardman

May 24, 1949 - September 24, 2025

It is with profound sadness and deep love that we announce the passing of Karen Ann Boardman (Nolde), who departed this life on September 24, 2025 at the age of 76. Surrounded by her family, she left this world peacefully, leaving behind a legacy of kindness, strength, and unwavering love.

Born on May 24, 1949 in Elmhurst, Illinois, Karen lived a life centered on family, compassion, integrity, and service. She was the devoted wife of John, with whom she shared 53 years of love, laughter, and partnership.

A dedicated mother to John III, Kristin, and Kimberly, and step-mom to Angela, she guided her family with wisdom and character. As a grandmother, she was a source of endless joy, her arms always open and her heart always ready to celebrate every milestone, big or small. She cherished her role as sister and aunt, strengthening bonds with family through tradition, generosity, and laughter.

Karen was also a passionate lifelong educator, dedicating 30+ years to teaching in the Lee County School District (mostly Kindergarten with ESOL students) and inspiring generations of students. She believed deeply in the power of learning and treated each student as though they were her own, instilling not only knowledge but confidence, curiosity, and compassion. Her influence reached far beyond the classroom, shaping lives and communities in

ways that will endure for years to come.

Beyond her family and career, Karen was a steadfast friend. She had a remarkable gift for making people feel valued and loved, and her presence brought light into every room she entered.

An avid reader, Karen found joy, comfort, and wisdom in the pages of her favorite books. She shared her love of stories with her family, friends, and students, encouraging others to discover the magic of reading and the worlds it can open.

She will be remembered for her selfless love, quick wit, dry humor, strong work ethic, and her life will continue to inspire all who were blessed to know her.

Karen is survived by her beloved husband, 3 children, John III, Kristin (Steve Reidel)Rice, Kim(Aaron) Meles and step-daughter Angela(Tim) Hauert, 8 grandchildren(Kinsey Jared, and Camden Rice, Katia and John IV Boardman, Lauren, Logan, and Claire Meles) 2 siblings, Richard and Sharon Nolde, nieces, nephews, countless friends, and former students who will miss her dearly. She was preceded in death by her parents Donald Sr and Shirlene(Lindquist) Nolde, and her brothers Donald Jr, Jack, and Fred Nolde.

A celebration of her life will be held on November 15th at 3:pm at the East Greens club house, 10 East Greens Blvd, Lehigh Acres, Fl 33936. Family, friends, colleagues, and former students are welcome to gather, share memories, and honor the beautiful life she lived.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to fund a

Karen(Mama) Boardman School Supply fund in honor of Karen's generous and giving spirit. This fund will allow teachers access to buy school supplies for those students who have none. Anyone desiring to write a check for this purpose can write them to John Boardman.

Tribute Wall

PF

“ There was a Potluck lunch at school and Karen brought a Crockpot full of Chili. A sudden stop or one of Lehigh's famous potholes and the Crockpot and Chili parted ways!
Karen had the best sense of humor.
Prayers for all the Boardmans.

Peggy Fjelsted - September 26, 2025 at 08:37 PM

TF

Our condolences.
So very sorry, John and to the entire family.
Tom & Jeanie Flack

tom and jeanie flack - October 03, 2025 at 10:43 AM

TF

Very sorry, John and family.
Prayers. Tom & Jeanie Flack

tom and jeanie flack - October 03, 2025 at 11:48 AM

CG

We are so very sorry for the families loss. Sending you all so many hugs. We're all gonna miss Karen at Joe's
With love,
Joe's Cafe

Chasity Golio - October 16, 2025 at 09:20 PM