



## Karen Irene Meske

July 20, 1948 - September 29, 2020

Karen Irene Meske bravely and freely departed this world on September 25, 2020, in her home in Pinckney, MI. The suddenness of her passing was a testament to how she lived her life, on her own terms. The first-born child of John D. & Carolyn M (Frost) Van Schoick II, she was delivered by her Grandfather John D. Van Schoick “Doc John” I (Irene) on July 20, 1948, in Jackson, MI. Soon after her birth, the family moved to Alpena, MI, where her father started Kur-Van Inc. Karen cherished the memories of helping her father run Alpena’s premier outdoor retail business. Her exceptional love of family was the hallmark of her life. She is survived by her beloved son and daughter-in-law Robert J. & Jennifer Meske, sister Jo (Dan) Wells, brother John D. (Connie) Van Schoick III, niece Lindsay (Andy) Barnes, and nephew Daniel Wells.

Intrepid and courageous, Karen graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in Journalism in 1970 before moving to California and starting a creative career that would span 5 decades, including esteemed roles as a Creative Director for Jacobson’s Stores and an Event Coordinator for the University of Michigan. Her ingenuity was further revealed in her culinary pursuits, a trait that satisfied countless hungry souls, and often left her son asking, “what’s this!?” during the mandatory nightly family dinner. A self-proclaimed “foodie,” paired perfectly with her hunger for travel. Best demonstrated by the bewilderment of fellow East Coast campers as she grilled Lobster across from their burgers and hot dogs. She will undoubtedly

be remembered for her unmatched love of gardening, receiving her Master Gardner's Certification from MSU in 1987, and gifting her prowess to family, friends, and strangers throughout her life. Any acknowledgment of Karen's life would be incomplete without mention of her love of cats and swimming. While certainly mutually exclusive, she spent very little time without a cat to warm her heart or a body of water to refresh her soul. A loved member of the United Methodist Church in Dexter, MI, the family will receive friends on Friday, October 2, 2020, at the church from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. A celebration of life will be held at the church at 12:00 p.m. To sign Karen's guestbook, leave a memory, or for more information please visit [www.rbfhsaline.com](http://www.rbfhsaline.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 2. 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Dexter United Methodist Church  
7643 Huron River Drive  
Dexter, MI 48130  
<https://www.dexterumc.org/>

## Memorial Service

OCT 2. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Dexter United Methodist Church  
7643 Huron River Drive  
Dexter, MI 48130  
<https://www.dexterumc.org/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Karen Irene Meske*

October 23, 2023 at 01:07 PM



“ *Karen will always be remembered, the countless hours working the greenhouse and store, she will be missed , all of us at Alexander's farm market, RIP*

**Robbin Alexander** - October 04, 2020 at 11:04 AM



“ *Today is cold, overcast, wet and dreary. Just perfect to match my mood finding this news. I'm sorry for your loss of Karen, sister, mom and friend. I wish I would have known sooner, I would have said all this in person. I didn't see her often, but it was a pleasure when I did. "Cabin cousins" have a forever bond in sharing our memories of days in the U.P.  
Kurt Van Schoick*

**Kurt Van Schoick** - October 04, 2020 at 10:44 AM



“ *I just found out about Karen and am blown away. She was the face I always looked for at Alexander's, smiling and welcoming. We exchanged book ideas regularly. I am so sorry to hear this news. A beautifully written obit, to whomever was the author. She will be sorely missed. I wish I'd known about the Dexter service in time to attend. Condolences to her family.*

**Betsy Goolian** - October 03, 2020 at 11:43 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karen Irene Meske.*



---

October 01, 2020 at 06:32 PM



“ *I always looked for Karen every time I stopped at the market! We always kidded each other and shared a good laugh. I am so sorry to hear of her passing. She will be missed by many. My heart goes out to the family. Patty*

---

**Patty Perone** - October 01, 2020 at 06:28 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Karen Irene Meske.*



---

October 01, 2020 at 03:59 PM



“ *Karen and I shared much laughter as we cashiered together at Alexander's Greenhouse. Outside of work we shared tea together and talked about adventures. I will miss the her wit and laughter. Goodbye my friend*

---

**Donna Whitney** - October 01, 2020 at 03:37 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karen Irene Meske.



October 01, 2020 at 10:19 AM



“ I knew Karen for many years sharing Explorers Bible Study with her. She was warm, friendly and caring. I am sorry for her passing. Blessings to her family.

**Topper Maloney** - September 30, 2020 at 07:50 PM



“ Metrologic Group Services purchased the Guiding Light Bouquet for the family of Karen Irene Meske.



**Metrologic Group Services** - September 30, 2020 at 12:41 PM



“ As an avid gardener, I always looked forward to Karen's smile when I shopped at Alexander's in Whitmore Lake. I will miss seeing her in the Spring.



**Connie** - September 30, 2020 at 12:33 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Karen Irene Meske.*



---

September 30, 2020 at 11:03 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Karen Irene Meske.*



---

September 29, 2020 at 08:09 PM



“ *Robert Payne purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Karen Irene Meske.*



---

**Robert Payne** - September 29, 2020 at 08:05 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Karen Irene Meske.*



---

September 29, 2020 at 07:04 PM