



Karen Judith Rokala

May 15, 1940 - November 5, 2025

Karen Judith Rokala (Hjertstedt) was called home to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Wednesday, November 5, 2025. She was peacefully surrounded by her family. Born on May 15, 1940, she grew up in Northwest Chicago, Illinois with her parents Oliver and Selma Hjertstedt and her siblings Beverly, Roger, Gerald, and Jayne. After graduating high school, she became an airline stewardess for United Airlines which she said allowed her “to see the world”. While working as a stewardess based in Minneapolis, she met and married Earl Rokala. They initially lived in Minneapolis near Lake Calhoun and then built their home near Rockford, Minnesota in the late 1960s.

Earl and Karen loved spending time together. As a testament to their love, they recently celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary. Their life together included 4 children: Bill, Kathy Liimatta (Kevin), Thomas (lost in infancy), and Sally Roebke (Mark). They have one celebrated grandchild, Caden Roebke.

Throughout her life she had many jobs that showed her desire to serve others. Karen enjoyed working as; a secretary, a teacher’s aide, a first grade teacher, and helping on the family tree farm. She also developed a love of photography and could be found at her kid’s sporting events taking photos of everyone. She ordered double sets of pictures so she could share them. One of her favorite passions was music. She wrote many songs that included scripture to teach Bible lessons to her children, the Pioneer Girls Club and Sunday school. Karen had a ready smile for all and a love of children. She also loved researching and recording her family ancestry. As a result, she was always willing to help others research and learn to record their family history.

Karen had many interests that involved being outdoors. With Earl being a ski shop owner, Karen learned to ski as an adult. She also went on many canoe and camping trips in northern Minnesota. She enjoyed gardening and each year grew huge gardens full of flowers. Her favorite outdoor activity was searching for unique rocks. She saw God's handiwork in each and every rock.

In everything Karen did in life, she believed in the Bible and the promise of eternal life. She wore a cross around her neck and collected them to hang on her walls. For her the cross was an outer sign of inner conviction. Her love for Christ was central to who she was and His light shone forth in her everyday.

For a lasting thought, Karen's father kidded about how much he cared for her. Ollie could be heard saying, "I'm 'Karen' for you? Are you 'Karen' for me?" She did. Karen cared deeply for all the people she met and spent time daily praying for friends and family. She lived her life serving Jesus and selflessly caring for others.

Karen's funeral service will be Monday, November 10, 2025 at the Kingston Apostolic Lutheran Church. Visitation will be at 10 a.m., service at 11 a.m. with a luncheon to celebrate her at the Kingston Community Center immediately afterwards.

Karen's Funeral service will be live streamed and recorded on the Kingston Apostolic Lutheran Church YouTube Channel. www.youtube.com/@kingstonapostoliclutheranc1799

Cemetery Details

Kingston Apostolic Cemetery

Kingston, MN

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 10. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Kingston Apostolic Lutheran Church
71580 CSAH 27
Kingston, MN 55353

Funeral Service

NOV 10. 11:00 AM (CT)

Kingston Apostolic Lutheran Church
71580 CSAH 27
Kingston, MN 55353

Tribute Wall

BK

“ I am so sorry for your loss, Karen was so great to talk to and just always wanted to know what was going on in your life and just easy to talk to! could always make you smile through pain! She was an amazing listener. Hugs and prayers to the Rokala family !!!

beth krutzig - November 10, 2025 at 09:36 AM

JV

“ Jamie and Alex Vroustouris purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Karen Judith Rokala.



Jamie and Alex Vroustouris - November 10, 2025 at 09:07 AM

JR

“ So many memories of our beautiful Karen... Her gentle Spirit lived in her smile. I loved our girl times. We would share our love for Jesus and Israel. When I went to Israel, I found a rock while I was in the tomb of Jesus.. I brought it home for her. She gave me the biggest hug and grabbed my face, cried and told all about Joseph of Aramathea... How that was a tomb that he had newly hewn and it had never been used until Jesus burial. Her ancestry traced back to his lineage. She was one of the most amazing and influential woman in my life. She taught me how to just love Jesus. I am grateful. I will miss her deeply... but I know I will see her again one day. I love you Karen. ❤️

Julie Rokala - November 08, 2025 at 07:48 PM

TF

“ The McCoy Family purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of Karen Judith Rokala.



The McCoy Family - November 08, 2025 at 07:28 AM

TF

“ *The Klapperich and Betts families purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Karen Judith Rokala.*



The Klapperich and Betts families - November 07, 2025 at 10:33 PM

MH

“ *It is with deep sadness that we hear the passing of our dear cousin Karen—known lovingly to us as Tudy. Our thoughts and prayers are with Earl, Bill, Kathy, Sally, their families, and especially her beloved grandson, Caden.*

For over 25 years, Tudy and I exchanged emails—sharing the rhythms of daily life, treasured Hjertstedt family stories, and memories passed down from her parents, whom we knew and loved. What began as a connection through ancestry and shared photos blossomed into a meaningful friendship rooted in warmth, humor, and mutual care.

Her love for Earl and her family shone brightly in every message. She spoke often and tenderly of Caden, who held a very special place in her heart. Though we were miles apart—Minnesota to Florida—her words bridged the distance, making it feel as though she was right next door.

We feel truly blessed to have shared this bond with her. Her faith, her devotion to family, and her zest for life touched us deeply and will remain with us always.

Rest in peace, dear Tudy. You will be forever remembered and missed.

*With love,
Marlene & Earl Hjertstedt
Sarasota, FL*

Marlene/Earl Hjertstedt - November 07, 2025 at 03:49 PM

AP

*We are sending our sympathies to Earl and his children during these trying times. Though distance separates us, our prayers and thoughts are with your family. Karen was a loving and sincere friend whom we loved very much. Our family sends sincere sympathy for you all now. God's Peace and love from Audrey and Ron Peterson
Phoenix, Az.*

Audrey Peterson - November 20, 2025 at 11:23 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Karen Judith Rokala.*



November 07, 2025 at 12:56 PM

KM

“ *My sympathy to Earl, Bill, Kathy, Sally & family. So sorry to hear of Karen's passing. She was a woman of faith and I remember her prayer prompts posted around your home which I observed as a child. I have also be blessed by her photography and her heart. May God give you all peace, comfort and strength to meet the days ahead. God's Peace & Love Kristi (Johnson) Myllymaki*

Kristi Myllymaki - November 07, 2025 at 09:26 AM