



## Karen C. Overmiller

May 17, 1950 - May 10, 2021

Karen Cecelia Overmiller died Monday, May 10, 2021 in an auto accident at the intersection of Route 50 and Route 5 in Tipton, Missouri. She was born in Washington, D.C. on May 17, 1950, almost 71 years before, to Fred and Mary-Margaret (Young) Overmiller. She was preceded in death by her parents; her sister, Debi and her three brothers, Chuck, Robert, and David. She grew up surrounded by immediate family and by approximately sixty first cousins and twenty aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews, with whom she lived in close proximity. Karen went to Suitland High School and Prince George's Community College in Maryland and later the Department of Agriculture Graduate School. She met her future husband, Wally (Walter George) White in 1973 at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, where they both worked until they retired in 2004.

Karen had lived in many parts of the United States. Early on, she grew up in Maryland, then she moved with Wally to Northern Virginia, then for five years to the Chesapeake Bay, then twenty-three years to Mount Vernon, Virginia on the Potomac River (with a vacation home in Ocean City, Maryland) and her final lakefront home in Four Seasons on the Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri to be nearer close relatives in Kansas City and Iowa.

Karen had many passions in life. She loved visiting with her many relatives, which included cooking for them. Another of her great joys was being an avid

shopper, and enjoyed her weekly sojourns with her girlfriends to Sams, Kohls, and T.J. Maxx and to the bird stores, where she bought tons of bird food, especially for her favorite hummingbirds and pileated woodpeckers.

And gardening, can't forget gardening. She loved to spend hours out in the yard, planting flowers, bushes, and shrubs. Her crowning glory was a seventy foot rock stream garden with a small stone foot bridge, culminating in a five foot waterfall into an eight foot pond. And throughout her life, she had numerous rescue dogs and cats: Nick and Nora, Peabody and Sherman, Atticus and Stella.

But perhaps her most notable avocation was traveling. Karen and Wally had traveled all over the world, from the Arctic Circle to Antarctica (twice), from North America to Central America to South America, from Scotland and Ireland to England and the rest of Europe, down to Italy and Greece, as far East as Israel, Turkey, the UAE, and even Iran. And of course, her favorite, Africa, from Egypt to Morocco to Namibia to South Africa to Kenya, Tanzania, and Chobe National Park. There wasn't a place she didn't want to go, and not too many that she didn't.

In lieu of flowers or other memorials, Karen and her family would appreciate a small contribution to the World Food Central (which provides thousands of fresh meals daily), the Salvation Army (which provides clothing, money, food, and goods directly to those in need), and to the Dogwood Animal Shelter of Osage Beach, Missouri, (which provides care and shelter to the homeless animal of the Lake of the Ozarks).

Online condolences may be left at [www.kidwellgarber.com](http://www.kidwellgarber.com).

Arrangements are under the care and direction of the Kidwell-Garber Funeral

Home of Versailles.

# Tribute Wall

GW

“ *Extraordinary person and wonderful employee of GNMA for many years. I'm so sorry that we have lost Karen. Guy & Sue Wilson*

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**Guy Wilson** - August 31, 2021 at 12:18 PM

CP

“ *3 files added to the tribute wall*



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**Chris Partain** - May 30, 2021 at 03:04 PM

“ It is hard to lose a friend and family member of seventy years. Karen was a first cousin, but I also considered her a special friend and more like a sister. We were born 1 month apart in 1950 and started our friendship right away. I can't explain why or how we became so close, but she was very special to me. For the first few years we lived in the same 4 unit apartment building and were constantly playing together. I don't actually remember doing this, but was told that when we were around three years old, we had somehow gotten out of our apartments very early one morning and were found roaming the streets. I'm sure our parents were not pleased to be woken up by the police when they took us home. We later moved but still visited on weekends or during the summer. Karen's family had a beach cottage and many of our families visited at the same time. We would pile up on the beds, porch or even slept in our cars. We would go swimming, crabbing, or walking to the market for penny candy. When Karen stayed with us, we went swimming, biking, or camping. In our teen years we even double dated a few times. When I got married, Karen was one of my bridesmaids and when I had my daughter, she was named after Karen. As the years went on, we were still able to visit once in a while. Karen and Wally had a townhouse at the beach and would invite us to visit. It was always a pleasure to see them and renew our friendship and talk about our lives – past and present. We would often have the pleasure of watching their adorable dog Peabody when they went away on vacation, so we got to see them if only for a short time when they dropped Peabody off. Karen and Wally moved to Missouri and we didn't get to see them often. Our last visit was about two years ago when Karen and Wally came to town for a family reunion. They stayed with us for a couple days and we had fun going to a show and playing cards. The love and special warmth I feel for Karen will never fade. Rest in peace Karen.

Love

Chris Partain

**Chris Partain** - May 30, 2021 at 03:01 PM

DJ

“*Karen was our friend. Those four words describe a special bond that we will forever treasure. We spent so many hours together traveling, shopping, sailing, watching football, laughing, eating, and just plain talking. And it was a ski weekend at Blue Knob with Karen and Wally that Steve and I met on the slopes.*

*We are so sorry that Karen is gone but we have wonderful memories of our times together. Our hearts go out to Wally and all her family.*

*Love, Debbie & Steve*

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**Debbie & Steve Jaskulek** - May 29, 2021 at 10:47 AM

AB

“*Jerry and I have so many special memories of time spent with Karen and Wally. "Finding" oysters off the dock near their Chesapeake Bay home; watching the Washington football team win their first Super Bowl in 1983; having afternoon tea at our "reserved" table as we cruised along the Nile are just a few that come to mind. Karen was always ready for an adventure, a new experience, some delicacies or a bit of local shopping. We could spend hours discussing books, gardening, and travels over a fine meal. We especially remember her warm smile and welcoming spirit and miss her greatly. Wally, we are keeping you and all those dear to Karen in our thoughts and hearts. All our love. Ann and Jerry.*

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**Ann and Jerry Browning** - May 25, 2021 at 11:07 AM