



Karen Bava Hudson

October 3, 1957 - April 19, 2022

Karen Bava Hudson, age 64, of Pounding Mill, Virginia, entered Heaven's gates on Tuesday, April 19th, 2022. She passed away at home after a long battle with frontotemporal dementia. This battle showed her courage in facing life challenges with a smile, and despite the pain, she stayed strong to the end.

Karen was born in Beckley, West Virginia, on October 3, 1957, to the late Tony and Mary Davis Bava. Karen dedicated her life to improving the lives of children, and was the Director of Upward Bound Programs for Tazewell, Russell, Buchanan, and Dickenson Counties at Southwest Virginia Community College (SWCC). Karen administered SWCC's first federal Talent Search Grant; wrote and received the first AmeriCorp Grant awarded to any community college in the State of Virginia; and was continually awarded three Upward Bound Grants, including Math Science, Tri-County, and Buchanan County. During her career at SWCC, Karen raised over \$20 Million in grant funds that directly impacted numerous students in the four county area. Her work with low-income high school and first generation college students has left a legacy of generational change for countless families.

Karen was also the co-founder of Mountain Kids, Inc., a local children's nonprofit organization, and found joy in retirement through assisting with summer camps and events with the organization. Karen was a devout

Christian, and was a member of Richlands First United Methodist Church for over 25 years, where she was active in the choir, children's programming, handbells, and women's groups. She enjoyed piano, gardening, crafting, reading, and traveling. Karen's biggest accomplishment was her family, and she enjoyed spending time with them more than anything else in this world.

Karen leaves behind her husband of 41 years, Richard Hudson; daughter: Sara Sheets (Brandon) of Bluefield, Virginia; daughter: Emily Noonan (Shaun) of Richlands, Virginia; her five granddaughters: Lilly, Eliza, Julia, Josie, and Margaret; and, her brother: Joe Bava (Diane). Richard, Sara, Emily, and their families, are eternally grateful to Karen's caregivers: Whitney, Elisha, Holly, Stephanie, and Kayla; as well as, the exceptional care she received from Legacy Hospice of Richlands, Virginia.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held on Friday, April 22, 2022, at 5:30PM, at the First United Methodist Church, 402 Suffolk Avenue, Richlands, Virginia. The family will receive guests prior to the service, from 4:30PM-5:30PM. In lieu of flowers, Karen requested contributions be made in her memory to: Mountain Kids, Inc.'s Scholarship Fund, 630 Estates Drive, Pounding Mill, VA 24637. Contributions will help continue her legacy of providing opportunities to low income children in our community.

Hurst-Scott Funeral Home in Richlands, Virginia is in charge of arrangements and those wishing to express sympathy online may do so at www.hurstscottfuneralhomes.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Karen Bava Hudson*

January 14, 2023 at 04:24 PM



“ *Karen Bava Hudson*

January 14, 2023 at 02:26 PM



“ *Sending heartfelt condolences during this sad time. Karen was my roommate at AB College freshman year, 1976. She had just completed a year touring with Up With People and she brought so much joy and energy to campus from that experience. Karen was musically gifted and so very talented. She was always singing, humming or laughing and everyone loved her! We all called her “Bava”. She will be missed, but I know she is singing and dancing once again in our Heavenly Home.*



Jan Bailey Donovan - April 22, 2022 at 09:38 PM



“ *My beautiful and brilliant friend and colleague Karen. We shared a lot of laughs as we traveled, worked, and collaborated together. I learned so much from you. Such a bright light in our community and we are all better having known you. Beth Page, VHCC*

Beth Page - April 22, 2022 at 02:14 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Karen Bava Hudson.*



April 22, 2022 at 11:47 AM



“ *Sending heartfelt condolences to Richard, Sara, Emily and their families during this sad time. Karen was my first roommate at Alderson Broaddus College. She had just spent a year touring with Up With People and she brought that joy with her to campus. She was always happy, humming or singing and always full of energy! I was excited when she and Richard moved their family to Richlands and our kids became fast friends. Karen was gifted in so many ways, a true treasure, and I will cherish the times we shared and the lasting memories of my dear friend.*



Jan Bailey Donovan - April 22, 2022 at 10:21 AM



“ *Mike Perkins lit a candle in memory of Karen Bava Hudson*



Mike Perkins - April 22, 2022 at 10:16 AM

DK

“ Rick and family. Please accept my condolences. I will keep your family in my thoughts and prayers.

David Koltash

David Koltash - April 21, 2022 at 11:25 PM

GP

“ Emily and family- you are in my thoughts and prayers during this time of sorrow.



glenna phipps - April 21, 2022 at 06:40 PM

BH

“ Bridget Hoosier lit a candle in memory of Karen Bava Hudson



Bridget Hoosier - April 21, 2022 at 04:50 PM

CC

“ Dear Hudson Family,
We send our prayers for God's peace and comfort at this time through precious memories to cherish.
Friends at Community Heights Church

Community Heights Church - April 21, 2022 at 11:14 AM

CE

“ Cindi Estep sent a virtual gift in memory of Karen Bava Hudson



Cindi Estep - April 21, 2022 at 10:09 AM

CE

Richard, I am so sorry to hear this. Prayer and hugs for each of you!!!

Cindi Estep - April 21, 2022 at 10:10 AM

JR

“ John And Wendy Reedy lit a candle in memory of Karen Bava Hudson



John and Wendy Reedy - April 21, 2022 at 10:06 AM



“ TonyanEdgar Wicks lit a candle in memory of Karen Bava Hudson



TonyanEdgar Wicks - April 21, 2022 at 08:19 AM

AD

“ *Karen was a quality lady and always so kind. Our prayers are with her family. May God give you strength and peace.*



Anna and Garry Damron - April 21, 2022 at 07:17 AM

KM

“ *Kathy Mcvey lit a candle in memory of Karen Bava Hudson*



Kathy Mcvey - April 20, 2022 at 09:26 PM

SR

“ *We meet the first week at college. She lived across the hall and we became best friends very fast. We lived our life together for many years. We got married and lived down the street from each other. Had our kids about the same time. Not until later did I move away and always had a hole because I wasn't close. But no matter the time that passed when we got together and shared vacations it was just like yesterday that I had seen her. I will continue to miss you my friend all the days of my life. But I know we will be united again some day in heaven. Till then love you with all my heart. Sandy*



Sandy Reppert - April 20, 2022 at 09:20 PM



“ Carolyn Pyles lit a candle in memory of Karen Bava Hudson



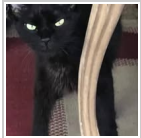
Carolyn Pyles - April 20, 2022 at 09:17 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Karen Bava Hudson.



April 20, 2022 at 08:32 PM



“ INSPIRING AND COURAGEOUS LADY



Davie Horton - April 20, 2022 at 08:23 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karen Bava Hudson.



April 20, 2022 at 08:03 PM

CW

“ *Dr. Hudson & Family,*

My heart breaks for you all, but my heart also rejoices for Karen knowing her suffering is no more.. I'll always remember her smiling and always jubilant attitude. May God Bless you all and you have been and will continue to be in my Thoughts and Prayers.

Cleressa C. Ward - April 20, 2022 at 07:21 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karen Bava Hudson.*



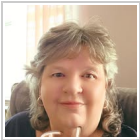
April 20, 2022 at 07:13 PM

PW

“ *Patricia Webb lit a candle in memory of Karen Bava Hudson*



Patricia Webb - April 20, 2022 at 06:27 PM



“ *Kim Smith lit a candle in memory of Karen Bava Hudson*



Kim Smith - April 20, 2022 at 06:25 PM