



Karmen Cita Kelley

June 11, 1959 - May 27, 2019

Funeral services for Karmen Cita Kelley, 59, of Gilmer, will be held at 10:00 am., Friday, May 31, 2019, in the Chapel of McWhorter Funeral Home with Bro. Billy Byrd, Bro. Charles Johnson and Bro. Riley Pate officiating. The family will receive friends 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm, Thursday, May 30, 2019. Interment will be held at Rosewood Cemetery.

Karmen was born June 11, 1959, to Paul and Joyce Knight, in Gilmer, Texas. Growing up, Karmen enjoyed riding her favorite horse "Hi-Jo," being a majorette for the Union Hill Marching Band, cooking in the kitchen with her mother and spending time with close friends and family. This love of good food, friends and family remained evident throughout her entire life.

Karmen spent her entire life in the Upshur County community where she lived, worked and worshiped. Karmen went to work for Upshur County at 18 years old, spending over 35 years working for Upshur County in some capacity before retiring. Most recently, Karmen was working for Union Hill ISD as their business manager. Karmen also loved her church family at Oak Hill Missionary Baptist Church where she worshipped.

Karmen raised two boys, Clay and Clint Steelman, and experienced all the love and treated all the scrapes & bruises that comes with raising two very active boys.

She married her husband and “soul mate” Jim Kelley on June 29, 2003 in Gilmer, Texas. Karmen and Jim enjoyed countless trips together, including the visiting of local eateries as they tried to knock different restaurants off of their “places to eat bucket list.” Good fried catfish or a ribeye seemed to top most of their lists.

Karmen was also a love filled

“Grammy” to her grandchildren, Savannah Joy Steelman, Colton Steelman, Nolan Steelman, Jase Steelman and “Mimi-Honey” to her youngest grandchild Cayden Steelman. Karmen’s favorite and most valuable thing in this world was being “Grammy” to these precious kiddos.

Karmen passed from this life Monday evening, May 27, 2019, in Tyler, Texas after a brief but courageous battle with cancer.

She is survived by her husband, Jim Kelley; sons, Clay Steelman and his wife, Becca and Clint Steelman and his wife, Heather; sister, Lana Stracener and her husband, Tommy; brother, Greg Knight and his wife, Sandra; grandchildren, Savannah, Colton, Nolan, Jase and Cayden Steelman; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her parents Paul and Joyce Knight; and by her stepdaughter, Crystal Kelley.

Pallbearers will be Alan Miller, Jim Barton, Glen Kelley, Caleb Stracener, Michael Miller, Kevin Miller, Keith Boren and Jacob Knight.

Honorary pallbearers will be the 1978 Union Hill State Champion Football team.

Memorial if desired may be made to Oak Hill Baptist Church Family Life Center P.O. Box 1437 Gilmer, Texas 75644.

Please visit Karmen's on-line registration book at www.mcwhorterfh.com to leave a memory for the family.

Cemetery Details

Rosewood Cemetery

8260 Arrowwood Rd.
Gilmer, TX 75644

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 30. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

McWhorter Funeral Home
1074 St. Hwy 300
Gilmer, TX 75645
(903) 734-7070
info@mcwhorterfh.com
<https://www.mcwhorterfh.com>

Service

MAY 31. 10:00 AM (CT)

McWhorter Funeral Home
1074 St. Hwy 300
Gilmer, TX 75645
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Tribute Wall



“ *McWhorter Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Karmen Cita Kelley*



McWhorter Funeral Home - May 30, 2019 at 06:32 PM

MB

I love this video!!!! It shows how much Karmen loved her family and especially her grand babies!!!!!! I loved her so much, there will be a hole in my heart for the rest of my life!!!!!! Fly high Karmen!!!!!!

Mitt Beavers - June 04, 2019 at 03:02 AM

CA

Absolutely beautiful and how she lived her family. Will miss my fellow majorette, 1970s!

Carolyn Cummings Altemus - June 05, 2019 at 11:34 PM

CR

“ *Sending our deepest sympathies for your loss, on behalf of the Republican Party of Upshur County.*

*Cynthia Ridgeway, Chairman
RPUC*

Cynthia Ridgeway - June 03, 2019 at 03:59 PM

MS

“ *Karmen was always pleasant, smiling and laughing whenever I would see her. She will be missed.*

Misty Sprouse - May 31, 2019 at 07:01 PM

KM

“ *Praying for her family and friends. She was truly loved. I was blessed to know her for a short time.*

Kerrie Melton - May 31, 2019 at 03:46 PM



“ *Healing Tears - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Karmen Cita Kelley.*



May 30, 2019 at 09:27 PM

CJ

“ *I was saddened to hear about the sudden passing of Karmen. I want to express my deepest condolences to her loved ones. Karmen was such a sweet person with a smile that I'm sure could light up a room. I always enjoyed visiting with her when she would bring Colton to his classroom when he was just a 1st grader. Her eyes danced anytime she spoke of Colton or Nolan. Her smile will be greatly missed on our school campus. My deepest sympathy to all of her family and loved ones. Connie Johnston*

Connie Johnston - May 30, 2019 at 09:17 PM

SC

“ Stephanie C lit a candle in memory of Karmen Cita Kelley



Stephanie C - May 30, 2019 at 07:45 PM

SC

I haven't known Miss Carmen for a very long time but I knew with all my heart that she loved me and my daughters very much and she always had my back. She was such an amazing example of being a great grandmother. She was certainly a true princess of God.

Stephanie C - May 30, 2019 at 07:54 PM

DS

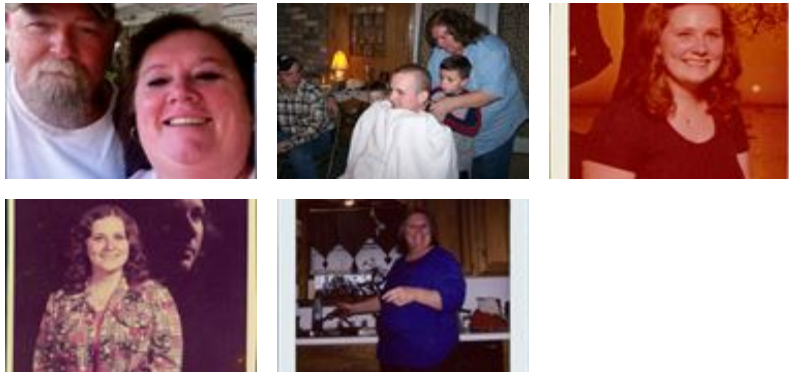
“ So sorry for your loss. Prayers for the family.



Dave and Ann Shaw - May 30, 2019 at 07:43 PM



“ 200 files added to the album Life Tributes

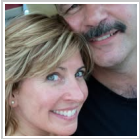


McWhorter Funeral Home - May 30, 2019 at 05:00 PM

LC

“ Remembering the great times going to school and church with Karmen & all the gang - love & memories that will forever remain a part of my heart and soul ! Praying for Jim and the family. * L.D. Calavan

L.D. Calavan - May 30, 2019 at 12:34 PM



“ Karmen was a sweet and gentle Lady. She and Jim met up with Di and I at the Pittsburg cattle auction. She just laughed at how me and Jim carried on. She will be truly missed.

Dan O'Shea - May 30, 2019 at 08:27 AM



“ Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Karmen Cita Kelley.



May 29, 2019 at 10:13 PM



“ Peaceful Wishes was purchased for the family of Karmen Cita Kelley.



May 29, 2019 at 10:02 PM

DP

“ *David Pruitt lit a candle in memory of Karmen Cita Kelley*



David pruit - May 29, 2019 at 06:53 PM

DP

Karmen was a very special lady she kept uncle jim in tune shes going to be missed dearly.... I love you aunt karmen and we are praying for uncle jim and the family

David pruit - May 29, 2019 at 06:54 PM

DB

“ *Darlene Barber lit a candle in memory of Karmen Cita Kelley*



Darlene Barber - May 29, 2019 at 04:05 PM

DB

My heartfelt sympathy and prayers for Jim and the rest of the family. Karmen was one of the most precious Ladies I've ever known. She always had that beautiful smile and encouraging words for everyone. She had a heart of gold. Amazingly beautiful inside and out. Karmen will forever be missed by all who loved and knew her. We will see you again soon precious angel.

Darlene Barber - May 29, 2019 at 04:10 PM

DR

“ *Daisey Riddlespurger lit a candle in memory of Karmen Cita Kelley*



Daisey Riddlespurger - May 29, 2019 at 01:02 PM

AT

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. Mrs. Karmen was the sweetest. Prayers for you all.*

Ashley Nolley Tunstall - May 29, 2019 at 11:32 AM

KS

“ *Such a sweet, intelligent, thoughtful lady! You will be missed! Sending love and prayers to the family!*

Kimberly & Brandon Stone - May 29, 2019 at 09:56 AM

TY

“ *Teddy, Jhenii and YoYo. purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Basket for the family of Karmen Cita Kelley.*



Teddy, Jhenii and YoYo. - May 29, 2019 at 08:17 AM

DO

“ *She was a very sweet person inside and out! Gone to soon she will be missed. Prayers for her family.*

Debbie ohara - May 29, 2019 at 05:52 AM

RJ

“ I've known this sweet lady since she was four years old. The family has always been a part of my life. Karmen had helped me on several occasions. I will truly miss her. My love to her family.

Ray Jackson - May 29, 2019 at 04:06 AM



“ Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Karmen Cita Kelley.



May 28, 2019 at 11:58 PM

ST

“ Met this sweet lady while in high school. We didn't go to the same school but became friends thru others. I moved away for years but when I moved back it was like I was only gone a few days. She was one of the most honest kindest and caring people you could ever know. She loved and gave with her whole heart. My thoughts and prayers are with her family friends and everyone that knew and loved her. My heart is heavy but I know she's walking the streets of gold hand in hand with the Lord. Love you Karmen and will miss you so much until I see you again our sweet angel.

Samira Taylor - May 28, 2019 at 09:31 PM

GC

“ We are so very sorry for your loss The Colbert family



Gay Colbert - May 28, 2019 at 09:30 PM

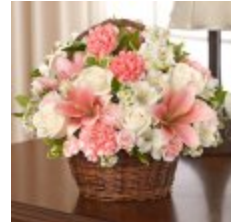
SS

“ *Condolences and prayers to her family so sorry for your loss.*


Susie Stracener - May 28, 2019 at 09:00 PM

TF

“ *the Beck Family purchased the Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Pink and White for the family of Karmen Cita Kelley.*



the Beck Family - May 28, 2019 at 08:10 PM

 Tracey Howell

“ *Tracey Howell lit a candle in memory of Karmen Cita Kelley*



Tracey Howell - May 28, 2019 at 07:43 PM

BH

“ *Sosorr*



Barbara Cryer (Hawkins) - May 28, 2019 at 07:41 PM

BH

REST HIGH ON THAT MOUNTAIN Karmen!!!

Barbara Cryer (Hawkins) - May 28, 2019 at 07:43 PM

SC

“ This is a great loss. Enjoyed knowing Karmenband working with her for a short time at Bealls. Really a sweet person.

sundae chatterton - May 28, 2019 at 07:08 PM

JO

“ I remember growing up with Karen. She never said a bad word against anyone. She sang in church as a child and I was so scared hardly a sound would come out of my mouth. She helped me get past that. I remember as children we sang Sunbeam for Jesus. I can still hear her singing that!

janet tucker oney - May 28, 2019 at 06:03 PM

LB

“ My prayers and thoughts are with all Karem's Family & friends.



Linda Shaw Bond - May 28, 2019 at 06:01 PM

BH

Was so sorry to hear about Karmens passing. Have known her forever.. As our Union Hill family keeps getting smaller here on earth one day we will all be united again.. She was always a very thoughtful friend.. She will be missed by many..

Barbara Cryer (Hawkins) - May 28, 2019 at 07:40 PM

PG

Karman always had a smile for anybody. You could walk into her office, she would look up to give you a huge smile. Her words from the heart. Whatever the situation she always had a positive attitude. Carman will be waiting for family and friends to join her in heaven.

Peggy Giles - May 29, 2019 at 09:53 AM



You ARE high on that mountain Karmen!! With your sweet Mom and Dad!! All of your family and friends will see you there one day!! You are loved !!!

yvonne Tucker - May 29, 2019 at 10:53 AM