



Karen Ragan Jurkoic

January 2, 1950 - September 20, 2021

Karen Ragan Jurkoic, aged 71, of Ten Mile, Tennessee, quietly left the presence of her beloved husband, Paul, and went to be with our Lord on 20 September 2021. COVID pneumonia complications took her from an active life, a loving family, and countless friends.

An American Patriot, Karen served her country for more than 20 years as a boom operator in the 134th Air Refueling Wing, McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base. In addition to taking her all over the world, her service earned her retirement with multiple decorations, including the Air Medal. Karen also enjoyed a second retirement from the U.S. Post Office.

Led by her keen appreciation of God's creation, Karen was constantly photographing birds, flowers, sunrises, sunsets, butterflies, clouds and thunderstorms. Even without a camera in hand, she often sat on the deck, happily watching hummingbirds engage in "aerial combat" for "fueling rights" at her feeders.

Never one to pass up an opportunity to experience as much of God's handiwork as possible, Karen was like a kid on Christmas morning visiting the lava flows on the big island of Hawaii. On that same trip with her beloved husband, Paul, she delightedly seized the opportunity to swim with the manta rays.

Karen's spirit of independence was fierce but so was her capacity to love, especially as it concerned her family. She treasured her husband, parents, siblings, and countless uncles, aunts and cousins. Additionally, she loved her nieces, nephews, and grandnieces and grandnephew as if they were her own children. Though her stepchildren came to her later in life, she wrapped her arms of love around them as if she had borne them. She cherished classmates from Glen Alpine and friends gathered from church and career.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Jay and Bobbie Ragan and nephews, Lt. Weston Kissel, USAF, and Col. Patrick Ragan USAF (Ret.). She is survived by her husband Paul, her brother, sister, stepchildren, nieces and nephews, and dozens of much-loved cousins.

Karen's memorial Mass is set for Thursday, 14 October at 10:30 (Eastern) at All Saints Catholic Church, 620 N. Cedar Bluff Road, Knoxville, TN.

Her interment ceremony with military honors is Friday, 15 October at 13:00 (Eastern) at Chattanooga National Cemetery, 12300 Bailey Ave., Chattanooga.

The family has requested donations to St Jude's Children's Hospital or the Tunnels-to-Towers Foundation in lieu of flowers.

Kyker Funeral Home of Kingston is serving the Jurkoic Family.

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

OCT **14.** 10:30 AM (ET)

All Saints Catholic Church
620 N. Cedar Bluff Road
Knoxville, TN 37923

Interment

OCT **15.** 1:00 PM (ET)

Chattanooga National Cemetery
1200 Bailey Ave
Chattanooga, TN 37404

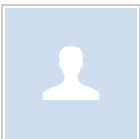
Tribute Wall



“ I was shocked and saddened to hear of Karen's passing. We worked at the Cedar Bluff post office together for years. Karen was so sweet, so beautiful and so dang funny! She was truly a wonderful person. There was a dog on her route that was not well cared for (to put it mildly) so we plotted to dognap him. My husband and I carried out the plan but if we weren't able to, she was going to get him. She loved anything furry! Not only was Karen beautiful, but she was a smart woman too. I loved hearing her tell of refueling jets in the air...and talk about her family. You could tell that she loved her country too. I loved her political Facebook posts and I agreed with all of them. I saw her a few times after I retired...one time she was at Ingles buying lunch for the guys that were working on her Mom's house. This was after she'd married Paul. I loved seeing their story on Facebook and I was very happy that Karen had found her soulmate. My sympathy goes out to Paul, his children & Karen's family. Karen was a beautiful soul and will be greatly missed.

♥ Tammy Stooksbury
Knoxville, TN

Tammy Stooksbury - October 15, 2021 at 02:02 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karen Ragan Jurkoic.



October 13, 2021 at 09:18 PM

PA

“Karen and I shared so much for 17+ years! Working together at the Post Office gave opportunity for so many different life issues to arise, and many demanded an ally. Karen was always my ally, my confidant and my true friend! I love her very much! The first time I saw her she was wearing her flight jacket. I said, "Great jacket, where did you get it"? She responded, "If I tell ya, I'd have to kill ya"! I cried laughing! If you know her well, you've probably heard her say that! We became instant friends that day! We had many important times together, and many frivolous ones, and Karen was truly a sister and friend who always gave more than she got in return, and always with love, joy, and her entertaining wit! I'm thankful for the privilege to know that she is just up ahead, and not forever removed from our lives! Thank you Paul, for reaching out to me for her. I so appreciate you for being her best fella ever! She adored you and that was obvious when she talked about you! Bye, Karen, see ya soon!

Paula - October 01, 2021 at 12:54 PM