



## Karen Lea Kjeldgaard

June 12, 1958 - June 6, 2014

Big Springs native Karen Lea Kjeldgaard of Ft. Collins, age 55, passed away on June 6, 2014 at Pathways Hospice Center in Loveland. She departs into eternal peace from the loving arms of family and friends.

Karen was born in Julesburg CO on June 12, 1956, to Idell and Wayne Kjeldgaard. She grew up in Big Springs, Nebraska, and graduated from Big Springs High School in 1976. She was a cheerleader, played volleyball, and participated in band and choir.

Karen was confirmed in the United Methodist Church of Big Springs and spent her life in the Methodist community. She was an active member of First United Methodist Church of Ft. Collins, and established many loving and enduring friendships through her service to the United Methodist Women organization.

Karen earned her Baccalaureate in Business Administration from Nebraska Wesleyan University in 1980. As a Colorado employee of Martin Marietta, she accepted a transfer to San Diego and lived there until moving back to Colorado in 1994.

After graduate study in Business Administration she accepted a position at First National Bank of Ft Collins, where she managed investment portfolios until her retirement in 2013. Karen traveled the U.S. and Europe. She joined her father Wayne on trips to Ireland and Alaska, and vacationed in Florida in February 2014.

Karen loved old movies, sewing, and time with her family. She was a devout Christian and lifelong student of the Bible. She doted on her Daschunds Opie and Gus. In addition to many devoted friends in Colorado and Nebraska, she is survived by her father Wayne, of Big Springs, NE, sister Julie Walsh and family of Ft. Collins, brother Mark Kjeldgaard and family of Englewood CO, aunts, uncles and other extended family.

A viewing, funeral and reception will be held on Tuesday June 10th at First United Methodist Church, 1005 Stover Street, Ft. Collins. Viewing opens at 10 am with services at 11 and reception to follow. Nebraska graveside services are planned for 11am Wednesday, June 11, at the Big Springs Cemetery.

Condolences and prayers can be entered at [goesfuneralcare.com](http://goesfuneralcare.com). In lieu of flowers well-wishers can donate to Pathways Hospice at <http://www.pathways-care.org/Donations/Memorial-Donations-and-Gifts.php>

# Cemetery

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## Big Springs Cemetery

Big Springs, NE,

# Events

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**JUN** **Visitation** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

**10**

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First United Methodist Church

1005 Stover Street, Fort Collins, CO, US, 80524

**JUN** **Funeral Service** 11:00AM - 12:00PM

**10**

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First United Methodist Church

1005 Stover Street, Fort Collins, CO, US, 80524

# Comments

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“ We were so pleased to know Karen through her work at 1st National Bank in Fort Collins. She was a joy to work with. Please accept our sympathy for her loss. The Warner family.

Lynne - June 22, 2014 at 05:43 PM

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“ Some of Karen's former clients also had tributes for her:

Thanks so much for letting me know about Karen. I remember her as a very savvy, pleasant person. Though I didn't know her outside of the bank, her obit confirms what I thought she was like. At least she isn't suffering anymore and she will live on in the hearts of all those who knew and loved her, every time they think of her. I appreciate all she did for both my father and me.

I am so sorry to hear about Karen. I only suspected that her diagnosis was so serious. OMGoodness, she was so very young. I did so appreciate reading about her. My, what a wonderful woman and I know all of you miss her so much. Certainly she blessed this earth greatly with her accomplishments and now heaven is a better place with her presence.

Christie Hoffer - June 11, 2014 at 12:28 PM

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“ I worked as an intern at First National Bank and really appreciated Karen's perpetual kindness, patience, and willingness to help me learn and grow. She was such a lovely person. My prayers go out to all of her family and friends.

Warm regards,  
Erin Mercer



erin mercer - June 10, 2014 at 02:55 PM

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“ Karen was a business customer of mine in the 1990's. In 1996, when my first daughter was born, she sent me a very thoughtful congratulations card and I have never forgotten it. Karen was very kind and always cheery, the world will miss her.

Godspeed Karen

**Mark Pepper** - June 10, 2014 at 10:41 AM

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“ We are so sorry to hear of the loss of Karen! Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. May God be with you. Love, Melanie (Mills) and Kelly Soper

**Melanie mills soper** - June 09, 2014 at 07:21 PM

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“ Karen was a dear, long-time friend to me. She was like the hub of the wheel where friendship originated, and she reached out to others as the spokes of that wheel. She was so good and such a good influence on me. I have missed her ever since she retired from First National, though we tried to see each other when we could. She is one of the people I will so look forward to seeing again in heaven! I am glad God shared her with us for a little while, if not long enough.

God's blessings and comfort to all those that miss her,  
Christie Hoffer

**Christie Hoffer** - June 09, 2014 at 03:35 PM

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“ I will always miss Karen's laugh, she had the most contagious laugh. Karen was my forever friend, a person I could count on to answer my phone call no matter when i called. She was my prayer warrior for my daughter, Stefanie. And Stefanie has a great love for Karen. Stef has always asked that I keep Karen informed about her status, she has always appreciated Karen's prayers for her. My heart is breaking, Karen was such a good friend! However, I know she is celebrating with her mom, her uncle Frank and others as we speak. Her life is free from pain and free from worry! I look forward to joining her someday!

**lisa whannel** - June 07, 2014 at 10:19 PM

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“ Karen was a great neighbor that lived on the corner of my block. She was always so nice and caring. She loved walking her dogs. I would see Karen twice a day walking them. They were very special to her. I clean windows for other neighbors on this block and enjoyed doing hers. Karen was a special person to me and she will be missed. She is now not suffering and resting in peace.

My prayers and thoughts are with her and the family.

Karen Smith

**Karen Smith** - June 07, 2014 at 01:01 PM



“ Simply, rest in peace in His loving arms my sweet, sweet Karen. I am so glad that I was able to tell you how much I have always loved you as my sister, so much more than just a friend to me...you will be in our prayers forever.

Deb and Jerry Kemp

**Debbie and Jerry Kemp** - June 09, 2014 at 07:34 PM