



Karen Rivera

July 20, 1965 - April 17, 2013

Karen Sue Downum Rivera was born on July 20, 1965 in Walnut Ridge, daughter of Paul and Bonnie Downum of Clover Bend. Karen graduated from Hoxie High School.

Karen will be missed by her son, Eric Rivera; two daughters, Jessica and Mercedes Rivera; three grandchildren, Jalen Mitchell, Olivia Rivera and Deija Smith; her mother, Bonnie Downum; a brother, Gary Downum and wife Linda; her sister, Paula Downum Smith and husband Dennis; several nephews and nieces, Greg Downum and wife Tammy, Scott Downum and wife Kim, Kevin Downum and wife Alina, Wes Smith and wife Amanda, Cyndi Downum Matthews and husband Chris, Tiffany Smith Parker and husband Jeremy, Brittany Smith Blackburn and husband Jonathan, and Christina Rivera.

She is preceded in death by her father, Paul Downum, and brother Dan Downum.

Karen moved to South Carolina in 1984 to join the United States Marine Core. It was there that she met her husband Ozzie Rivera, also a Marine. They then moved to Virginia. In 1991, Karen and her children moved back to Arkansas. In 1995 Karen graduated from Arkansas State University with her Bachelors Degree in Criminology and Psychology. She also had several hours toward her Masters Degree. She was a member of the Central Baptist Church in

Jonesboro.

Karen was a fun loving, live life to the fullest type of person. Karen's motto was "Cape' Diem" or "Seize the day".

Karen left this life on April 17, 2013 at 5:37PM. She had spent several days in the CVICU unit at St. Bernard's Hospital in Jonesboro. She will be continually missed by her children, her mother and all of her family.

To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family, please visit our Sympathy Store.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **21**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Bryan Funeral Home
415 NW Texas St.
Hoxie, AR 72433

Memorial Service

APR **21**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Bryan Funeral Home
415 NW Texas St.
Hoxie, AR 72433

Tribute Wall

LP

“ I wish to offer my deepest condolences on your loss. I only learned yesterday evening of Karen's passing. Karen was a student and advisee of mine at ASU Criminology. I can first remember when she came to my office with 3 little stair-step children to get advised to start school at ASU. She was a hardworking student, who dealt with a lot of adversity to complete her bachelors degree. I really admired her for all she did to graduate. Karen started graduate school, but life circumstances got in the way of that. Over the years, Karen would maintain contact on occasion; the last time being this past Fall semester, when she came to my office to talk about jobs. Sadly, I was on a short schedule and could not spend a long time speaking with her. After that, I never heard from her again. I am very sorry that her life ended too early, and hope that you will find peace in memories of good times spent with Karen.

Larry Salinger

Larry Salinger - State University, AR - Former Professor - May 02, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ I was so sorry to hear of Karen's passing. I used to live on her parents farm, and worked for them several years, even a few times after I got married. I knew Karen's Mom & Dad & sister; Paula better than I did her. I got married the next year after she was born. Love & sympathy to the whole family.

Pat Westmoreland - Mammoth Spring, AR - Family Friend - April 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ I remember Karen from when I was in lower elementary school. She was always very nice to me, as I'm sure she was to many. Rest in peace, Miss Karen. My condolences to her children and the rest of the family.

Dollie (Maple) Dawson - Hoxie, AR - April 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

YC

“ You will be missed but never will you be forgotten....fun memories we shared at work, in the love of movies and you just being you...a funny and caring person. May you rest in peace.!

Yolanda Maney - AR - Former Co-worker - April 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ Rest in peace, you will be missed.

Sharon Garner - Harrisburg, AR - Former co-worker - April 21, 2013 at 12:00 AM

WF

“ Will remember our good times, your contagious laugh, your free spirit, and that awesome voice....Never heard anyone (except Patsy) sing "Crazy" like you could. Prayers with your family!

Wanda Fincher - Conway, AR - Friend - April 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Mercedes, your mother will be missed by all that knew her. Wish we could be there for you & your family. Our prayers are with you

Mark Maddox - Harrison, AR - Friend - April 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ May God's presence be deeply felt during this very difficult time. My prayers are with all of Karen's family. This week I have had many fond memories of Karen and our growing up years together. Sunday afternoons playing at one another's houses, going to church camp, singing specials, listening to 45 rpm's, and watching her shoot skeet over her catfish pond are just a few things that come to mind. Karen was my first "best friend" and a very important part of my life throughout my childhood. She was a funny, smart, athletic, talented person with a zest for life. Her death has affected me, and I mourn this loss along with Bonnie, Paula, her children, and all the rest of her family. I am comforted in knowing she is in the presence of her Saviour!

Carolyn McCampbell Moody - Jonesboro, AR - Friend - April 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ We are so sorry about Karen. We will see the family on Sunday. Love you all.

Christy Downum Brooks - Pocahontas, AR - cousin - April 19, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ Sympathy is passed on to the entire Downum family, especially to Bonnie, Gary, Paula, and Karen's children. I remember Karen when I would come visit Gary and Linda when she was just a youngster when I was home from the Air Force for a visit. Karen was always joyful to be around. May she rest in peace. God Bless.

Ronnie Ward - Hampton, VA - Family Friend - April 19, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ *Paula, Bonnie and Family,*

My deepest sympathies go out to you and your family. May God give you comfort as only he can during this time. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Kaye

Kaye Smith Simpson - Fontaine, AR - Friend - April 18, 2013 at 12:00 AM