



Mrs. Karen Dale Nelson

October 5, 1938 - February 22, 2022

Karen Dale (Daniels) Nelson, 83, Willow Springs, passed away peacefully on Feb. 22, 2022.

She was born October 5, 1938, to Walter Lewis and Josephine Hope (Ralls) Daniels in Chicago, IL. She graduated from Culver-Stockton College in 1960, and married the love of her life, David Nelson, on August 19, 1960, in Mt. Prospect, IL. She began her teaching career in the Waynesville and St. James School districts before moving to Willow Springs in 1963. Known affectionately to many as “Mrs. Nelson,” Karen spent 35 years teaching first grade at Willow Springs Elementary. She was an amazing teacher who made a positive impact on many children with love, care, understanding, and discipline. Over the course of their 61 years of marriage, Karen and David enjoyed many worldwide travels, making trips to Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Trinidad, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Japan, China, Austria, Budapest, Russia, Canada, the Galapagos Islands, sailing all over the Caribbean, and traveling the entire United States, including 15 trips to Alaska. One of her favorite pastimes, however, was just sitting on her back porch watching the wildlife and birds in the yard. She also enjoyed reading, working jigsaw puzzles, and working with her flower gardens.

Preceded in death by her parents and grandson Brandon Talbert, Karen is survived by her husband, David, of the home in Willow Springs; three

daughters and sons-in-law, Katrina Hughes and husband Sheiston, of Pompano Beach, FL, Kristin Wood and husband Kevin, of Rolla, MO, and Korin Gulshen and husband Jim, of Fort Myers Beach, FL; three grandchildren, Brittany Neely and husband Ian, of Fair Grove, MO, Kendra Wood, of Rolla, MO, and Kameron Wood, of Burlington, KS; five great-grandchildren, Isaac, Aliviah, Hudson, Rebel, and Ryatt, as well as extended family. Her family was her greatest joy!

A visitation for family and friends will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 1, 2022, with the funeral service to follow at 11 a.m. at Willow Funeral Home, LLC, Willow Springs, MO with Pastor Scott Williamson officiating. A graveside service will be held Thursday, March 3, at 10:30 AM at Berry Cemetery in Galt, MO. Arrangements are under the direction of Willow Funeral Home, LLC. Online condolences may be left at www.willowspringsfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Berry Cemetery

State Highway BB
Galt, MO

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Willow Funeral Home, LLC
106 E 3rd St
Willow Springs, MO 65793
(417) 469-3141

Service

MAR 1. 11:00 AM (CT)

Willow Funeral Home, LLC
106 E 3rd St
Willow Springs, MO 65793
(417) 469-3141

Graveside

MAR 3. 10:30 AM (CT)

Berry Cemetery
State Highway BB
Galt, MO

Tribute Wall

JR

“ We have had so many memories with Karen. Square dancing for years her and David were two of our favorite people i am sorry David i missed saying good bye but someday we will meet again.

judy Richardson - March 02, 2022 at 02:06 PM

CG

“ Carol and Jan Gitcho purchased the Bountiful European Dish Garden for the family of Mrs. Karen Dale Nelson.



Carol and Jan Gitcho - March 01, 2022 at 07:18 PM



“ Lavender & White Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Karen Dale Nelson.



February 28, 2022 at 04:37 PM



“ Carolyn GC Robertson Collins lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Karen Dale Nelson



Carolyn GC Robertson Collins - February 27, 2022 at 02:48 PM



To the Nelson family, a great loss of my kindergarten and first grade teacher. May God bring you comfort and open his arms to welcome her in heaven. God bless the Nelson family.

Carolyn GC Robertson Collins - February 27, 2022 at 02:54 PM

DH

“ *To the Nelson Family sorry for your loss. From the Hales David & Jennifer*

David Hale - February 26, 2022 at 10:01 PM

KB

“ *Kathy and Randy Breaux purchased the Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Lavender and White for the family of Mrs. Karen Dale Nelson.*



Kathy and Randy Breaux - February 25, 2022 at 08:11 PM

TC

“ *The Panther Bay Yacht Club purchased the Sympathy Arrangement In Basket (Large) - Pink & White for the family of Mrs. Karen Dale Nelson.*



The Panther Bay Yacht Club - February 25, 2022 at 11:22 AM

AT

“ *Dave: much love, hugs and our deepest sympathies are being sent to you & your family. Karen was one special lady and we feel honored to have called her a friend! Love, Jim & Amy Thalmueller*

Amy Thalmueller - February 25, 2022 at 10:43 AM



“ *Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers was purchased for the family of Mrs. Karen Dale Nelson.*



February 25, 2022 at 09:01 AM



“ *Lavender & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Karen Dale Nelson.*



February 24, 2022 at 08:48 AM



“ *After sixty plus years, it is hard to think of one special memory but I remember a time when we laughed so hard that we had tears running down our cheeks. A particular time was when we (David, Karen Jerry and I) boated up the Hudson River on the Teazer, docked, and then decided to find a restaurant for dinner. The restaurant sent a car to pick us up at the dock. It turned out to be a very tiny car and all four of us had to squeeze in along with the driver who drove very fast up a windy hill rocking us from side to side. It was very funny to all of us. By the way, the gorgonzola shrimp was outstanding.*

Lois Rafferty - February 23, 2022 at 08:26 PM

YL

“ Your sister, Lois purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of Mrs. Karen Dale Nelson.



Your sister, Lois - February 23, 2022 at 08:05 PM

LF

“ Many great memories with Dave & Karen on the square dance floor, clogging those were some of the best of times, Many a students had Karen as a teacher prayers for all

Larry & Reda Foster - February 23, 2022 at 06:49 PM

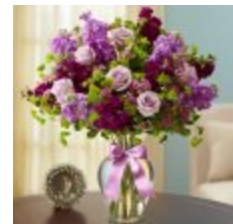
LE

“ We didn't get to know Ms. Karen very well, but when we were planning our trip to Alaska, the Nelson's so graciously let us ask them at least a million questions! We met up with them at Copper River campground. So many adventures they had! That's how to do life.

Lloyd and Debbie Ebert - February 23, 2022 at 06:47 PM



“ Shades of Purple was purchased for the family of Mrs. Karen Dale Nelson.



February 23, 2022 at 06:18 PM



“ *Dear Kris and family,*

We are deeply sorry to see of the passing of your sweet mom. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

John and Linda Smugala and family.

Linda Smugala - February 23, 2022 at 05:16 PM

SL

“ *Mrs Nelson was my 1st grade teacher along with my husband Jack Lovan and 3 of my siblings Nancy Wendell and Dwight Thank you Mrs Nelson for devoting many years of your life to education and getting us started in this life! You will be missed greatly by all who knew you ❤️🙏...May God bless and keep the family*

Jack and sharry Lovan

sharry Lovan - February 23, 2022 at 11:07 AM

SB

“ *Sorry to hear of Karen's passing. Our thoughts & prayers are with her family at this trying time.*

Sharon & John Bacon - February 22, 2022 at 09:15 PM

CP

“ My name is Charlene (Rakestraw) Piatt. I started my teaching career in Willow Springs teaching 3rd grade but I worked with Karen among several other elementary teachers. One story that I remembered was a little girl in Karen's room had been absent several days. Another little girl said to Mrs. Nelson that there were little worms in this little girls desk. So Karen went to investigate. The little girl had brought a dyed egg from Easter and had push it into the back of the desk. The egg had been there awhile and had rotted so you can imagine what the "little worms" were. She about lost her lunch. But she did clean out the desk and washed it out. I doubt the little girl missed her egg when she came back to school but probably wondered why her desk was so clean. Karen was my little brother's, John, 1st grade teacher. She was a great friend and helpful with advice for a beginning teacher even though I taught older kids. Eventually I got kids who had been in her room. She had a great laugh and a good sense of humor.

Charlene Piatt - February 22, 2022 at 05:41 PM