

Obituary

Karen Kay Speas, born on July 17, 1943, in Washington, Iowa, passed away peacefully on April 30, 2025, in Hewitt, Texas. Raised with deep values and a strong sense of community, Karen devoted her life to public service, exemplifying generosity and a commitment to helping others throughout her many endeavors.

Karen obtained her GED with aspirations to work in the operating room at University Hospital in Washington, Iowa. She met Everett Wayne Speas in Swisher, Iowa. Their love story began in January of 1960. They were united in marriage on June 24, 1960 after she asked him to marry her. In 1967, the couple moved to Texas, where they would build their life together for nearly 65 years.

Throughout her life, Karen was heavily involved in her community. She served as a volunteer at Hillcrest Hospital, contributing her time as a transporter, a recovery room aide, and an assistant in the operating room. Her unwavering dedication extended beyond healthcare; Karen proudly took on the role of room mother at her daughters' schools over several years and served as President of the PTA. She was also deeply engaged with the Bluebirds Girls Club and played a pivotal role in coordinating one of the first Meals on Wheels programs in collaboration with Cogdell Methodist Church and St. Matthew Lutheran Church, where she personally bought, prepared, and delivered meals to those in need.

A cherished member of Cogdell United Methodist Church for 56 years, Karen later joined Renew Church in 2024. Her spirit of service was evident in every aspect of her life; she could frequently be seen driving individuals to their appointments, no matter the distance, embodying her true passion for helping others.

Karen is survived by her loving husband, Everett Wayne Speas; her daughters, Robin Gibson and her husband, Eddy, and Tammy Speas; as well as her cherished grandchildren, Brandi, Jared, Tiffany, Jasmine, Brandon, and Elijah, and numerous great-grandchildren, extended family, and friends who will forever hold her memory dear.

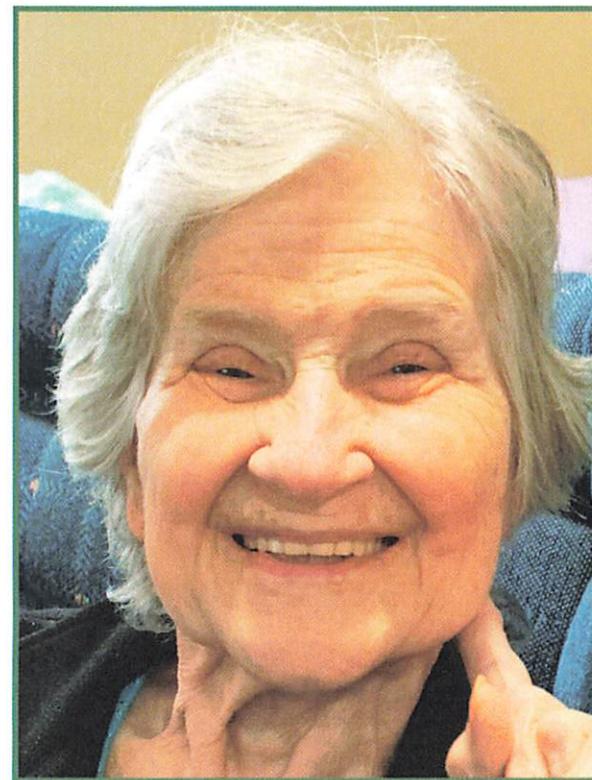
Karen was preceded in death by her parents, Raymond and Clara (Stone) Baker; her grandson, Robert Charles "Tre" Taplin, III; her sister, Carol Kershner; and her brothers-in-law and a sister-in-law.

Karen Kay Speas' legacy of kindness, dedication, and love will continue to inspire all who knew her. She will be profoundly missed, yet her spirit will forever remain in the hearts of those she touched.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

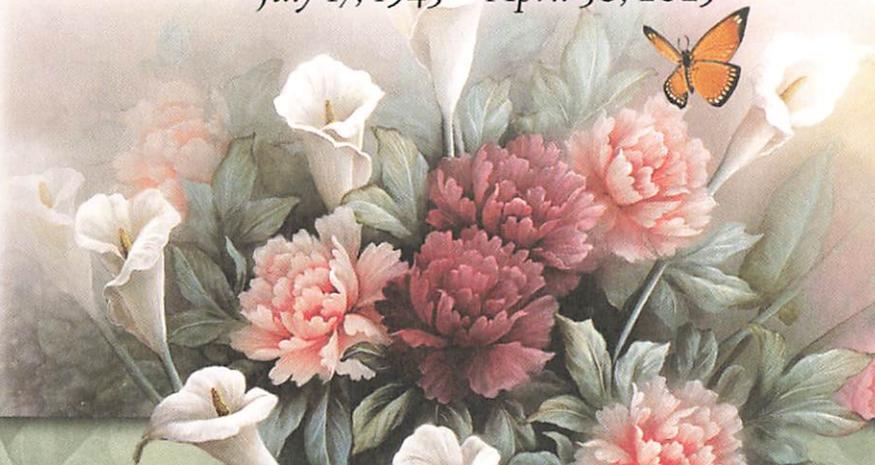


In Memory Of



Karen Kay Speas

July 17, 1943 ~ April 30, 2025





Dear ones, there's something you
need to know;
Death has knocked upon my door -
and I am ready to go.
I have no strength left within
me to stay and fight,
and I have no desire to - now
I've seen the light.
For the light of death is brighter
than the light of day.
And death's sweet voice is calling
me - calling me away.
So dear ones, very soon I know
that you will weep,
As my body falls into an everlasting
sleep. But read these words I've written
once again, and you will see,
I welcome death with loving arms -
it holds no fear for me!
- Faye Kilday



Karen Kay Speas

Services

1:00 PM, Tuesday, May 6, 2025
Waco Memorial Funeral Home
Robinson, Texas

Officiating

Richard Koskela

Casketbearers

Eddy Gibson Randall Roberts
Brandon Taplin Robert Taplin, Jr.
Jared Gibson John Speas

Honorary Casketbearers

Robert Taplin, III- Brandi Gibson - Tiffany Lofton
Elijah Taplin - Jasmine Harris

Vocalist

Mackenzie Rock

Interment

Waco Memorial Park

