



Karen Darnall Fleck

February 8, 1958 - May 15, 2023

Karen Darnall Fleck, 65, of Evansville, passed away suddenly at her home on Monday, May 15, 2023.

Karen was born February 8, 1958 in Evansville to Kathryn (Varner) Darnall and the late James Rex Darnall. She was a Preschool teacher at St. Vincent Early Learning Center and previously the USI Children's Learning Center.

She was, above all else, an amazing mom to her girls and a dedicated wife of almost 40 years. She loved teaching nature-based learning with a fiery passion, and adored every single kid she shared their early learning years with. She was an astoundingly talented Master Gardner and her yard continuously put the neighborhood to shame. There was no native plant that she could pass up and find some place to make its home. She loved floating in the ocean, creating sparkle out of nothing, Una Tu's pizza, and loving her kids unconditionally. Life without her will be significantly less bright and way less fun. She'd definitely be mad to know anyone was crying over her, so instead go buy a plant.

Surviving Karen are her husband of 40 years, Richard Fleck; three daughters, Jessica Fleck, Rachael Fleck and Sarah Fleck; her mother, Kathryn Darnall and a sister, Sheri Darnall.

According to Karen's wishes there will not be a public visitation or funeral service held at this time. In her honor, please hug your loved ones and make a donation to the Be Kind for Ollie Foundation at <https://www.bekindforollie.com/>.

Condolences may be made online at www.pierrefuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

Evansville Crematory

318 N. Lemcke Ave.
Evansville, IN

Tribute Wall

KE

“ To Rick, Jessie, Rachael, and Sarah - Karen was a one-of-a kind special lady! I will never forget traveling to gymnastics meets, and doing Jr Master Gardeners with you all. Sending you so much love and heartfelt prayers on the loss of Karen!

Kim Ellis - June 02, 2023 at 06:11 PM

RS

“ So very sorry for your loss, prayers going up for all the family. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Rodger Schenk and Laurie Paul

Rodger Schenk - May 19, 2023 at 08:19 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Karen Darnall Fleck.



May 19, 2023 at 08:33 AM

AC

“ Always known in our hearts as Ms. Karen. She was our daughters preschool teacher at USI and so much more. She was the person I always looked towards for advice, because I didn't know what I was doing as a first time mom. She always knew how to help and always filled with love and reassurance. I'll never forgot how she loved each child at her school. My daughter struggled early on with anxiety and Ms. Karen helped her overcome so much in those short years.

We recently moved back from Minnesota and my heart just knew I needed to find her to reconnect. My husband jokingly said when we got here...let's find Ms. Karen and hire her just as our sons pre-k teacher. That is how profound we admire her. Although we didn't have her for our son..and him just graduating recently..I couldn't help but think of her and all she did for us. My heart aches knowing I was too late to reach her. However, her spirit is alive and well through her family and she always will have a spot in our hearts. She lives in the light and her light shines down on all of the people she has touched. I pray for her husband and her daughters. I am so sorry for your loss of an amazing women. We are going to plant a native plant at our home in her honor.



Ashley Clayton - May 19, 2023 at 08:14 AM

PN

“ We know Karen as Jess Fleck’s mom - part of a fun family who hosted the great parties our son liked so much. Jess is amazing though, and after reading about Karen, I’m sorry we never met. Now I see where Jess got so many of her great qualities.

Our thoughts are with Jess and the family as they cope with the loss of such a beloved mother. Deepest sympathy, Penny and Ben Nejad

penny Nejad - May 18, 2023 at 09:41 PM

CN

“ Karen was always kind to us and we were always envious of her garden. Still are, really. Some of her plants have sent their seeds over our way, and we’re certainly thankful for these surprise gifts. We’ll miss her.

Chris and Nina - May 18, 2023 at 09:40 PM

KC

“ I did not know Karen, but I felt like I did through all the wonderful stories her husband shared with me. She sounds like a wonderful lady full of compassion and a heart of gold. To my friend Rick, you have my deepest sympathies. My heart and prayers go out to you and your daughters.

Kimberly Clark - May 18, 2023 at 04:25 PM

ER

“ Karen is such an amazing and kind-hearted person. I had the honor of working with her as an intern at the USI Children's Learning Center and again working along side her at St. Vincent Early Learning Center. Always wearing a smile every day. I have learned so much from her. She is my mentor and most importantly my friend. It is a privilege to me to having been able to work with her, learning new things and growing personally and professionally. You are amazing!

Eric - May 18, 2023 at 12:14 PM

YW

“ Your PTT FEMA Family, Dan&Tosha Walker purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Karen Darnall Fleck.



Your PTT FEMA Family, Dan&Tosha Walker - May 18, 2023 at 08:45 AM

LW

“ Miss Karen, as she will always be called in our house, was a preschool teacher to both of our children, one at USI and the second at St. Vincent. (As soon as we heard she had landed at St. Vincent, we enrolled specifically to have Miss Karen again!) It is so hard to put into words how absolutely special she was. She always let kids be kids....the muddier, the better! We always marveled how she was still smiling at the end of every day, despite wrangling the little ones for hours.

Our family was heartbroken to hear the news. She made a huge impact on our lives and we will forever be grateful for how she loved, cared for, and taught our kids.

Sincerely, Nick and Leslie Whitney

Leslie Whitney - May 17, 2023 at 10:57 PM

BW

“ From the moment I met Ms. Karen I realized I was so blessed. Words can not be formed to express how thankful i am that my daughter Addie, had the privilege to experience the most compassionate, warm, understanding,patient, loving woman for the past 2 yrs as her Pre-K teacher.Ms.Karen taught her so much and I am forever grateful. She loved everyone of her preschoolers. Addie will forever remember what Ms. Karen taught her. I will truly miss the daily interactions we had. We are very sorry for her families loss, we pray for you.

Bonnie Wangler - May 17, 2023 at 03:00 PM

MI

“ These are the most beautiful memories. Jess- I don't know if you knew this, but before I came to FEMA I worked with Early Childhood Educators. They are truly angels that walk among us. They are some of the most kind, loving, giving, selfless, and wonderful souls. While I never had the chance to meet her, I imagine these qualities also define your mother. My whole heart is with you, and I am praying that you will have comfort in this hard time. May her memory always be a blessing.

Michelle - May 17, 2023 at 12:32 PM

CW

“ When I spoke to Ms. Karen at pickup on Monday afternoon, she told me that every child in her care needed some cuddle time that day. It makes my heart happy to know that they all got to love on her one last time. I loved talking with her about the "castle house" next to the playground and the outdoor adventures with her class. She was a beautiful soul and my Lucas and I will miss her greatly.

Crystal Weber - May 17, 2023 at 11:14 AM

TR

“ Both my grandchildren have been in her preschool classes at USI and St. Vincent's. She has really made an impact on them. They both love her and have such good memories of her. I had the privilege of meeting her when picking my grandbabies up. She always so sweet.

Tracy - May 17, 2023 at 11:09 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Karen Darnall Fleck.



May 17, 2023 at 08:29 AM

WP

“ Rick and Karen Janet and I can not single out one memory But can say with us not being Evansvillians we always felt AT HOME in your home! All the great Indiana basketball games and Christmas Day gatherings! Wee will cherish our memories and miss you. Deepest condolences to Rick, Kate and girls! 🙏

Wayne & Janet Presson - May 17, 2023 at 08:24 AM

JT

“ I am sorry for your loss. Karen was so good to my folks - mom knew she could call Karen and Rick when she needed help. So many memories of Karen's smile and those "little" girls. Prayers for you all and I will plant a native flower in her memory. - Jane Tuttle

Jane Tuttle - May 17, 2023 at 08:00 AM

KB

“ Spent many times with her at gymnastics meets fall festival booths a great person and special lady. She will be missed. So sorry many prayers and hugs. To the family

kandi Burkett - May 16, 2023 at 11:09 PM

CM

“ Ahhh, where to start? Karen was a very special lady... we first met her at ISUE when she first started dating Rick... she was always the practical one of our group...her smile and laugh were contagious and she was always friendly to all of us....she will certainly be missed but her memory will live on in the hearts of those of us that were fortunate enough to know her.... may she rest in peace!!

Charlie Miller - May 16, 2023 at 11:03 PM

JM

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Jamie Madigan - May 16, 2023 at 11:03 PM

LW

These are great pictures of a group that cared so much.

Leslie Whitney - May 17, 2023 at 11:01 PM

MA

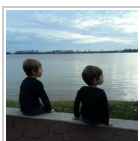
“Mrs. Karen is the most amazing teacher. She has always been so sweet and uplifting. Yesterday she let my son sleep on her lap during nap time because he struggles to fall asleep. She has always went above and beyond. She was my 5 year olds best friend. No one can replace Mrs. Karen. My prayers go out to her family, we are so sorry for your loss.

Marilyn - May 16, 2023 at 10:07 PM

MC

“Words can't express the sorrow and heartbreak I feel right now. Rick and Karen were our neighbors but more than that they were our amazing friends. When we first moved next door to them she gave me an awesome “popcorn” plant. She was the one I always went to her for suggestions on what to plant. She was an awesome person with a passion for life. Even though we recently moved I will truly miss her so much!! My thoughts and prayers to Rick and their beautiful daughters.

Michele Current - May 16, 2023 at 08:45 PM



“Mrs. Karen had my boys at USI and we thought she was the bees knees. My kids are 10 and 13 but they still talk about her and all the fun memories they had with her. She was so passionate and the kids she taught felt that. We were blessed to have her influence and guidance in those early parenting years. I just can't say enough wonderful things about her. Every child needs a Mrs. Karen. I'm so sorry for your tremendous loss.

Kristin Forrest - May 16, 2023 at 08:36 PM

JA

“ I’m sorry I never had the opportunity to meet Karen, but I can only imagine how amazing she was if she was able to raise such amazing kids. I’m very sorry to hear of her sudden passing, and all the Flecks are in my thoughts. I have no doubt she will live on within those she loved.

Jade - May 16, 2023 at 08:30 PM

KD

“ I worked with Karen at MEGA. She was a fantastic preschool instructor and a wonderful mother to her 3 girls. I loved her personality and energy. Richard, Jessie, Rachel & Sarah I am so for your loss. The greatest blessing we can receive in this life is to have a loving devoted mother like Karen. Praying for you all. Kelly DeCarli

Kelly DeCarli - May 16, 2023 at 08:01 PM

CH

“ Karen was one of my bonus moms growing up. I think I spent as much time with the Flecks as I did with my own family as a kid. Jessie, Rachael, and Sarah, I am SO sorry for your loss. I’ve been looking back through old pictures and Karen always had a way of making things extra magical. From Harry Potter premiers, to insane Halloween trick or treating nights, to Holiday World Trips, to letting us run wild in your neighborhood (I recall us making hammocks in your holly tree?) Karen just made everything more fun. I have so many fond memories of time spent at your house as a kid and all of our adventures at the gym and traveling for meets. Sending all my love your way ❤️ - Chelsea (Vance)

chelsea - May 16, 2023 at 07:08 PM

SW

“ I hate so much to hear this! Ms. Karen was the best teacher any of my kids have ever had. At ANY age. She loved her students like her own children and she supported their parents. She saw the potential in every child. She made sure every child she encountered new they were special. When she spoke to a child, she had a way of making them feel like they were the most important person in the world. Every child that left her room each day knew they were loved. My kids have not seen her since the COVID shutdown started but they still talk about her. She will be dearly missed.

Sarah Wagner - May 16, 2023 at 06:36 PM

BN

“ Oh so sorry to hear of Dear Sweet Karen's passing... 😞 I meet her and her 3 wonderful children at MEGA GYMNASTICS... We worked together for a year or 2? Her smiley face and laugh were always CONTAGIOUS & the children 💜'd her ... She will 🐝 missed by all those whom she came into contact with!!! 😞
GOD BLESS her for her compassion &
Generously sharing her 📱 😊

Bruce Niemeier - May 16, 2023 at 02:37 PM