



Karen Tolbert Land

December 8, 1950 - January 4, 2014

Karen Anne (Tolbert) Land

Karen Anne Tolbert-Land died on Jan 4, 2014 at BJC Hospital in St.Louis, MO with her husband at her side. Daughter of Mary Anne Busselle-Tolbert and Ronald H. Tolbert Sr., Karen was born on Dec 8, 1950 in Indianapolis, IN, the oldest of nine children. She attended Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Agnes Academy in Indianapolis. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree (Elementary Education, 1972) and a Master of Science degree (Health Education, 1979) from Purdue University, where she developed a lifelong interest in the treatment of eating disorders. She held teaching licenses in Indiana, Florida, and Illinois and served as a teacher, Senior Library of Congress Copy Cataloguer, Clinical Research Coordinator (Phase 3 Drug studies), Systems Development Librarian, and Programmer Analyst. She also was Director of Dante International Enterprises and engaged in OASIS intergenerational tutoring. She read the Alton Telegraph broadcast for the visually impaired, served as ombudsman for the elderly, and was moderator for an animal internet forum. Her memberships include the American School Health Association, Associates of Clinical Pharmacology, ANAD, HERS, Frederick Law Olmsted Society, Missouri Historical Society, Alton Museum of History and Art, Alton Landmarks Society, Purdue University Alumni Organization, SUAA, Eta Sigma Gamma (National Health Science Honorary), and Phi Kappa Phi (National Scholastic Honor Society). We remember her as an avid life-long student, a stubborn, tenacious fighter for “the innocents”: she

never met an animal she didn't like and most of her pets were rescues. She loved books, music, and art—Rembrandt, Bosch, and Kahlo. She traveled widely throughout North and Central America, Europe, Taiwan, and Japan. From 1994 until her death, she coordinated and supervised virtually every detail of the comprehensive restoration of her home, the Drummond Mansion in Alton, IL. She was preceded in death by her brother Thomas and her half-sister Retta Mabel. In addition to Dr. Martin F. Land, her husband of 32 years, her siblings, and her uncle James, Karen leaves behind her former spouse William R. Burchell.

In her own words:

When I Die,

Put my Picture in the Paper.

Tell the World you Loved Me.

Say Only Good Things about Me – OK, a couple of bad things but make them Interesting...

Miss Me, Remember Me, but do not Mourn.

Remember, I am Still with You,

Always in Your Heart. KAT

The impact of her loss is immense to us all: Martin F. Land - Alton, IL. Brian E. Tolbert (Cheryl) - Houston, TX (Christi, Susie). Ronald H. Tolbert Jr. - Manchester, TN. William L. Tolbert (Susan) - Indianapolis (William, Sarah, Christian, Daniel). Linda M. Tolbert-Sawrey - Indianapolis, IN (Jennifer). Robert S. Tolbert - Frankfort, IL (Megan, Corey, Paul). Mary E. Tolbert-Smith (Andrew) - Fountain Town, IN (Olivia). Kathleen S. Tolbert - Indianapolis, IN. James A. Busselle - Indianapolis, IN. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the TreeHouse Wildlife Center, 23956 Green Acres Road, Dow, Illinois 62022

Tel. 618-466-2990, <http://treehousewildlifecenter.com> or your local chapter of the ASPCA, <http://www.asPCA.org> Correspondence: Dr. Martin F. Land, 2800

College Avenue, Bldg 284, Alton, IL 62002

In accordance with her wishes, cremation will be private. An opportunity for remembrance by family and friends will be announced at a future time.

Gent Funeral Home, 2409 State St. Alton, IL, 62002. www.gentfuneralhome.com Tel: 618-466-5544

PDF Printable Version

Tribute Wall



“ *Karen Tolbert Land*

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *Karen Tolbert Land*

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *I work at the Godfrey Schnucks store in the deli dept. Karen was one of my favorite customers. We enjoyed hearing about her animals and the projects she was working on about the house. We will miss her. When I think of her - I smile! Only happy thoughts!*

Joyce Kurz - February 07, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Martin, My family and I are deeply saddened by the news of Karen's passing. Our thoughts are with you in this time of sorrow.*

Kevin Tseng - January 12, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *I extend to you and your family my deepest and sincere sympathy and will keep Karen in my thoughts and prayers. Kurt*

Kurt H. Studt - January 12, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ *May you find comfort during this difficult time in your many cherished memories and in the loving support of God and family.
2 Corinthians 1:3,4*

Linda Martin - January 12, 2014 at 12:00 AM

FA

“ *Beste Martin,
Via Irene en Paul kregen wij het bericht over het overlijden van jouw Karen. Marti en ik wensen je de kracht en de sterkte om zo'n enorm verlies te dragen.
We denken aanje.
Frans- Rin*

Frans - Rin van den Akker - January 12, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *Karen Tolbert Land*

Jack Marincel - January 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM

YL

“ Our beloved Karen suddenly passed away. You will always be in our mind as the animal lover.

From rescued ones to the insect collection you had.

I loved the days we spent at the Loading Dock in Crafton to look at the Harleys. That thought will be with me by the T shirt of the Loading Dock you gave to me.

Remember the fast ride on the bike we had and you needed a half day to untangle your hair. We always quarrelled about the way everybody should live and at the end you said: "And this bitch will never die" After all you said: "I cannot help I am married to a Dutchman" and then I said: "You are talking to one as well". You passed away sooner than me. I hope to meet you some time, some place, some where.

*Farewell Karen,
Jan and Yvonne*

Yvonne and Jan Leguiñán - January 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TD

“ Karen rest in peace knowing you made a mark on this world with your kind words and actions. My deepest sympathy to Dr. Land. May you find peace with the memories you shared with Karen etched forever in your heart. God bless you and her family.

Tammy Duggan - January 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SA

“ I will always love my aunt Karen she will be missed, love you Karen...

Sean Alexander - January 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

NI

“ Dr. Land, I am so very sorry to hear about Karen. She was a wonderful person. I always enjoyed our chats when she would call for you. I loved hearing about the animals! You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.

Nancy Inlow - January 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

IP

“ Our deepest condolences on the passing of Karen. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Igor and Maureen Pesun - January 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SA

“ Dear Dr. Land,

It saddens our hearts to hear of the departure of your dear wife. As we celebrate her life, we ask the Lord to repose her soul in the paradise of joy, and grant you and the family all heavenly peace and comfort.

Shereen and Sarah Azer - January 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BT

“ We are thankful we got to visit with her in December. It was a good time of catching up and caring.

Bill and Susan Tolbert - January 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ With our deepest sympathy during this time. We fondly remember Karen and celebrate her life accomplishments and caring for those individuals with impairments and her deep care for animals specially dogs. We will always remember her.

Alejandro and Constance Peregrina and Family - January 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BK

“ Dear Martin and family,

Now I realize just how special it was to have spent time with Karen and you in your home to really begin to get to know and love her. You two were simply so good for each other - it was heartwarming to experience. Am in full agreement with her that she remains with us;but the anguish is real.

God Bless

Bob Kelly - January 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

ES

“ *Almost 40 years ago, a Dutchman and a Brit met in Indianapolis. Very soon Karen was introduced into our lives, and from then on, our paths often ran parallel but often diverged. She was part of our life in Gainesville, Florida, We attended her wedding to Martin in Utrecht—such a beautiful bride wearing an Indonesian, silver wedding belt that no one else could possibly have fit into. We spent a memorable time in Puerto Vallarta one year, and most years caught up on life’s events in Chicago.*

Always Karen was the gracious hostess to a bunch of dentists attending the Chicago midwinter meeting from around the world, shuttling them back and forth from the airport to the hotel to her home. The midwinter meeting is almost upon us once again, and many there will mention her name kindly and mourn her death. Karen, our memories of you are very precious. We are going to miss you terribly

Enid, Stephen, Paul, Erica, and Vanessa

Enid and Stephen - January 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

GZ

“ Dear Karen, We will allways remember you as a animal friend. You left us to young.

I remember your last visite in Santpoort. You were playing with Mikkie my Golden Retriever.

He is also in heaven.

THank you for knowing you, and we will never forget you. And we also will take care of MArtin.

Ghislaine en Aad Zonnenberg - January 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AK

“ You are always with us, cherish the good dinner time conversations I had with you and Dr. Martin Land my mentor.

Amir Khatami - January 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ Peggy and I wish we could have known Karen more closely. We had little time with her but her love for Martin, family and pets was very obvious. She was a talented and beautiful person. We know how much Martin loved Karen and that love will live on in Martin. We have Karen, Martin and their family in our prayers. John and Peggy Agar

John and Peggy Agar - January 08, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ My partner Julian and I have nothing but good memories of Karen. It was always refreshing to spend a little time with her because of her friendly openness, quick wit, obvious intelligence, and unique sense of humor. She was deservedly proud of the hard work she did, along with her loving husband Martin, on the restoration of their magnificent home. We could have not asked for better neighbors when we lived next to them from July 30, 1999 until August 6, 2009, and were blessed to have been able to keep in touch with them ever since we moved away.

Scott Dixon - January 08, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ I've lost a very dear friend. I so respected and admired Karen. Karen, I wish that I at least could have said good-bye to you. I'll never forget you -- ever, I promise.

John J. Dunphy - January 08, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PM

“ Most heartfelt thoughts for the Tolbert family. This is certainly too much for you to bear in such a short period. Nothing can be said to ease your grief, but know that my thoughts are with you all.

Pamela McCarrel - January 08, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SL

“ Our hearts and deepest sympathy go out to Martin and Karen's family. She was a beautiful lady inside and out. She was petite, but tough as nails. I admired her very much and will miss her humor.

Sandy Lang - January 08, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PR

“ Dear Martin, I want to express my sympathy for the recent loss of your love wife. Losing a close family member is always sad and I want you to know that I am very sorry for your loss. Sincerely, Patch

Patchanee Rungruanganunt - January 08, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ I will never forget the summer spent with my Aunt Karen and Martin when I was young. We had the best time doing many activities and got to see the delivery of her Golden Retriever's puppies. Her dogs were her kids! She will be greatly missed. My prayers go out to Martin, my dad (Toby) and all the Tolberts during this difficult time.

Susie (Tolbert) Hensley - January 08, 2014 at 12:00 AM