



Karen Despain

June 8, 1940 - August 19, 2020

Long-serving Daily Courier newspaper editor Karen (Gurley) Despain, 80, passed away Aug. 19, 2020 at the Marley House Hospice in Prescott, with her family by her side.

Karen was born June 8, 1940 in Phoenix to William Donald Gurley and Mary Josephine (Kingsbury) Gurley. She was a University of Arizona journalism graduate and die-hard Wildcats fan. Beginning right after college in 1962, she served three stints in five different decades as a Daily Courier reporter and editor. She remained a newshound to the end.

Karen was a talented storyteller who enjoyed writing about people most of all. Her fierce and nurturing devotion to her reporters, photographers, readers, friends and family brought great respect from her newspaper family and the community in general.

An Arizona native with a long ancestry in Cochise County, Karen loved Copper State history. As a member of the Yavapai County Arizona Centennial Celebration Committee, she co-wrote the committee's "Around Yavapai County: Celebrating Arizona's Centennial" history book.

She was active in numerous groups including the Phippen Museum Board of Trustees, Habitat for Humanity, Yavapai County Juvenile Justice Center Community Advisory Board, and St. Paul's Anglican Church. Always asking how friends were doing, she had a special skill at making others feel loved. Karen is preceded in death by her first husband, Prescott Police Chief Ken Lindley, who died in the line of duty in 1971; and son Michael Despain from

her second marriage that ended in divorce.

Karen is survived by her daughter, Deborah Lindley; granddaughter Payten Lindley; son-in-law Chris Boling, Sr.; brother Bill Gurley and his family; sister Ellen Neil and her family; and her many friends and newspaper family.

Karen's memorial will take place at Ken Lindley Field, 702 E. Gurley St. in Prescott, at 1 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 6. A reception will follow at the Yavapai County Mounted Sheriff's Posse Clubhouse, 1495 S. Sheriff's Posse Trail in Prescott. A private family burial will take place at Mountain View Cemetery in Prescott. Donations in Karen's memory may be made to Habitat for Humanity and the Phippen Museum.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

SEP 6. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (MT)

Ken Lindley Ball Field

Tribute Wall

GG

“ Karen served as a member and Chair of our Juvenile Court Community Advisory Board. She had a big heart for our young people and strived to help them succeed while ensuring justice for all. Karen was a huge advocate for the juvenile justice system and wrote many wonderful articles for the Courier in support of our staff, programs and youth. Karen was a good personal friend of mine for many years. I will miss her greatly. Gordon Glau

gordon glau - September 12, 2020 at 12:29 PM

JK

“ Jim and LaVerne Kingsbury purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Karen Despain.



Jim and LaVerne Kingsbury - September 02, 2020 at 02:01 PM

LG

“ We are so sorry for your loss. I know it helps to know how much she was loved and admired by so many. We were blessed to have Karen in our lives too. We got to know Karen many years ago when she worked with my husband Bob at the Courier. She was one of his most treasured employees. Karen was here for us when Bob passed away and we are so grateful for that. She took the time to meet with Robby when he was writing his first book, sharing her enthusiasm with him and giving great suggestions. She will always hold a special place in our hearts.



We pray that beautiful memories will help to heal the pain at this difficult time.

Love and Blessings,
Linda and Robby Gilliland

Linda Gilliland - August 30, 2020 at 12:42 PM

LG

“ We are so sorry for your loss. I know it helps to know how many people truly loved her and admired her. We were fortunate to have Karen in our lives too. We got to know Karen when she worked with my husband Bob at the Courier. She was one of his most treasured employees. She was here for us when Bob passed away and we will be forever grateful for that. She took the time to meet with Robby when he was writing his first book. She was one of the most caring people we have ever met. She will always hold a very special place in our hearts. We look forward to seeing her again in Heaven. We pray the special memories you hold dear will help you get through this difficult time.
Love and Blessings,
Linda and Robby Gilliland



Linda Gilliland - August 30, 2020 at 12:26 PM