

Karen was born October 25, 1951, the daughter of Hayden and Dorothy (DeBord) Bengston, in Kewanee, IL. She attended Kewanee Schools. She married Jim Gilbraith in March of 1967. She later married Edwin “Ted” Countryman. He preceded her in death on January 31, 2018. Karen enjoyed fishing and boating. She was a member of the Jayceettes of Annawan and loved playing cards. She also enjoyed reading Harlequin Romance and Danielle Steele novels. She loved spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Holiday times were special, she spent hours cooking all the favorite dishes, including her Mom's baked beans and always made sure there was a fresh jar of pickled herring to enjoy. Karen also spent many afternoons with Ted at the Purple Onion, having coffee with their friends. Karen and Ted also raised many Champion Coon River Blue Tick hounds and miniature Beagles. Karen was especially proud of all three of her grandsons, who proudly serve(d) their country in the United States Air Force.

Those left to cherish her memory include her son Jason (Erin) Gilbraith of Annawan, Grandsons, Chandler Gilbraith of Sheffield, IL, Cameron Gilbraith of Warrensburg, MO, and Carter Gilbraith of Ramstein, Germany, and her two most precious great grandchildren, Rhett and Rory Gilbraith. Also honoring her memory are stepsons Edwin Starr Countryman, GA, David (Michelle) Countryman, FL, and her stepdaughters, LuAnn (Brian) Burton, FL, Diane (Robert) Catton, IL, and 11 step-grandchildren and 8 step great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Hayden and Dorothy, her husband, Edwin, and her daughter, Cherie Gilbraith.

Remembering
THE LIFE OF
Karen S. Countryman
October 25, 1951~ November 3, 2019

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As beautiful as a rose to see,
Was her life she lived
so *Gracefully*
She made things
precious by her *touch,*
Her selfless love lives on in each of us.
The petals of her life fell one by one,
Each a *gift of her heart*
Yet her radiance blooms once again
In *Fields of Glory*
with no end.



Memorial Service To Celebrate Her Life

Mineral United Methodist Church
Saturday, November 9, 2019 10:30 a.m.
Mineral, IL

Officiant

Reverend Terry Lancaster

Music

Nancy Salzmann

Place of Inurnment

Private Service At A Later Date
Annawan Cemetery

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