



## Karol

January 23, 1946 - December 28, 2018

Karolyn (Karol) M. Patzer

January 23, 1946 - December 28, 2018

Karol Patzer, age 72, passed away Friday, December 28, 2018, at The Pillars Hospice Care Center. She was born January 23, 1946, to Mike and Bertha Gurgacz in New Castle, Pennsylvania.

Life is either a daring adventure or nothing at all. Karol chose to live her life by this motto even after being diagnosed with Ovarian Cancer in January 2016. She was a loving mother, an avid motorcyclist, a world traveler, a bird lover, a willing volunteer, and an outdoor enthusiast. It didn't matter where Karol was her smile and positive attitude made an impact on everyone she met.

Early in her life, Karol developed a passion for motorcycles. As a Motorcycle Safety Instructor, she aided and mentored many new riders, and shared her passion for motorcycling with them. She was a member of multiple motorcycle organizations, held numerous volunteer roles, and for 25 years was chairperson for the BMW MOA International Rally Charity, where she helped raise money for numerous charities. Karol was well respected and loved throughout the motorcycling community.

In September 1986, Karol met the love of her life, Jerry, at the Wisconsin Dells BMW motorcycle rally. For the next 32 years they were nearly inseparable as they shared many interests and loved traveling the country. Be it on two or four wheels, they camped along the way. Karol and Jerry made several trips to Mexico, and shared many adventures south of the border. Their motto was “toes in the sand”.

Karol’s adventurous nature showed through in her travels, including Africa, and as she rode in long-distance motorcycle rallies. She proudly finished four, eleven-day “Iron Butt” rallies on her BMW K75. Karol had an inner strength and showed determination throughout her life. At age 55, she quit her job to pursue her dream of completing 55,000 miles on her motorcycle in one year. In June 2017, when she and Jerry rode in Alaska, Karol completed her goal of riding a motorcycle in all 50 states.

After retiring, Karol was able to share her passion and knowledge of birds with others by volunteering at the MN Raptor Center, MN Zoo, and by working part-time at her favorite bird store.

Karol was loved, and will be greatly missed, by many friends and her family. She is survived by her life partner, Jerry; three sons, Tony (Amy) DeLorenzo, Brian (Katherine) DeLorenzo, and Mark (fiancé Nickole) DeLorenzo. She was preceded in death by her parents, Mike and Bertha Gurgacz, and her sister, Patricia Knight.

Karol’s life will be honored at two events. A Memorial Service will be held at Washburn-McCreavy Funeral Chapel at 5000 West 50th St in Edina, MN on Saturday, February 2, 2019. The visitation for Karol will be held from 2-4 PM followed by a service at 4 PM. The family is also planning a celebration of life T.B.D. in spring. This will enable her motorcycling family, and other friends to meet and share stories about Karol’s spirit and zest for life.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Karol's honor to the Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance (MOCA).

"Ride hard, go far, keep smiling" - Karol Patzer

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 2. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Edina Chapel  
5000 West 50th & Highway 100  
Edina, MN 55436  
(952) 920-3996  
[info@washburn-mcreavy.com](mailto:info@washburn-mcreavy.com)

## Memorial Service

FEB 2. 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Edina Chapel  
5000 West 50th & Highway 100  
Edina, MN 55436  
(952) 920-3996  
[info@washburn-mcreavy.com](mailto:info@washburn-mcreavy.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Chic Mixed Plant Basket was purchased for the family of Karol.*



February 01, 2019 at 09:41 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karol.*



January 29, 2019 at 06:21 PM



“ *Karol was someone I looked up to. She taught me to not wait in pursuing a dream. I will miss her so much. Rubber side down!*

**Lisa Malachowsky** - January 22, 2019 at 09:32 AM

RS

“ Jerry, Tony and Amy, Brian and Katherine, Mark and Nichole,

*The obituary is beautiful and it captures Karol and honors her memory in a very meaningful way. Thank you for all of the love and support you all offered her throughout her life and especially in the last few years and months. She loved you all. She is someone I felt so lucky to know albeit through our OC journey. The times we met for lunch and coffee really helped me and she always was so positive, up beat and realistic. I miss her dearly. My thought and prayers are with you all.*

*When I see a cardinal now it has very special meaning for me as it reminds me of her bold and beautiful spirit and soul. Take good care of each other.*

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**Renae Sheibley** - January 09, 2019 at 07:29 PM

AK

“ Dear Jerry, Tony and Amy, Brian and Katherine, and Mark and Nickole,

*I send you my deepest sympathies for the losses that you are feeling with the passing of your beloved Karol. As a partner to Jerry, who manned the support vehicle of her life - mind, body and spirit - she could be her most independent self, knowing that he was always there for her to come home to. As a mother to Tony, Brian and Mark, I can only imagine the model that she was for you, the high standards that she set for you, and the love that she gave to you. As a mother-in-love to Amy, Katherine and Nickole, Karol has given you a one-of-a-kind model for an independent woman who, with Jerry at her side, lived a life seeking unique opportunities and achieving rare goals. May each of you, with your chosen partner, find that kind of extraordinary closeness and freedom in your own life.*

*Karol has left a great gift: a legacy that honors all of you and that inspires all of us - family, countless friends, and people she never met who were touched by her many accomplishments and selfless good deeds on behalf of others. Since the day I met her nearly 30 years ago, Karol Patzer has been an icon. May she continue to lead and inspire us wherever our lives take us! May we say her name and tell her stories with a smile on our face, a shake of our head and a twinkle in our eyes, remembering one absolutely amazing and unforgettable woman!*

*Anita Kozan, Minneapolis MN*

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**Anita Kozan** - January 09, 2019 at 03:23 PM

MT

“ Sincere condolences to Karols family. She touched so many lives and will be missed. Ride on Karol.



mike T - January 08, 2019 at 10:39 PM

RD

“ Karol was an amazing woman and her leadership in the motorcycle community will be sorely missed. Ride on my friend through those pearly gates and beyond.  
Ramona Damiani

Ramona Damiani - January 02, 2019 at 12:33 PM

LS

Karol was such an inspiration to me. I could never achieve her riding ability, or match her courage or daring spirit, but seeing her accomplishments helped me to push my own envelope and live a fuller life than I ever dreamed possible. Thank you Karol, and congratulations on a life well lived.

Linda Stone - January 08, 2019 at 11:16 AM

TE

Karol was so easy to admire because she always had a good word and the best smile ever. She just knew how to 'gather you in' and make you feel like you belonged.

Tom Erdmann - January 15, 2019 at 01:35 PM