



Karen Sue Killian

September 13, 1942 - May 11, 2026

Karen Sue Killian, 83, passed away peacefully on May 11, 2026, in Benicia, California. Born on September 13, 1942, in Wanette, Oklahoma, the family moved to Benicia when Karen was two months old chasing WWII jobs at the Benicia Arsenal. At the time, all residents pronounced their hometown as Bun-ish-a. As a lifelong resident, Karen went through Benicia schools, starting a three-generation tradition.

Karen lived a life filled with love, creativity, and devotion to her family. She was the beloved mother of Teri (Ken) Davena and Kevin (Irma) Keheley. She was fond of saying that she always wanted to be a mother. Her children felt that in the love and support she provided. She was the proud grandmother to Blake and Brett (Jennifer) Davena, Josh (Kristina) Keheley, and Jeremy Day. Her legacy continues through her many great-grandchildren. She is survived by her sister and best friend Judy (Ed) Johnson and many nieces and nephews. She was pre-deceased by her parents, Charles and Clara Dale Killian, and her son Brian Keheley.

Karen was a study in contrast. Though small in stature, Karen was large in talent, compassion, love and loyalty for her family. She was shy with a wicked sense of humor. Karen had a passion for entertaining and creating gourmet meals that brought joy. A brilliant decorator with an eye for detail, she transformed spaces into beautiful havens. Shopping was one of her favorite pastimes—she approached it as a recreational sport and found immense joy in the pursuit with her mother, sister and nieces. When Karen's children were

nearly grown, she began a 30-year career as an assistant for an ophthalmologist, retiring to spoil her grandsons.

The family extends their heartfelt gratitude to the nurses and staff at Benicia Loving Care Home, Sutter Care at Home hospice, Sutter Solano Medical Center, Always Best Care (especially Imelda), Heartwood Avenue Healthcare, and the medtechs and caregivers at Ivy Park Glen Cove for their exceptional care during Karen's final journey. Special thanks are also extended to Karen's cousin John Bailey for his companionship during countless lunches, reminiscences, and sight-seeing drives.

In honor of Karen's memory, donations may be made to the Lewy Body Dementia Association or the Parkinson Association of Northern California in her name.

Karen will be deeply missed by all who knew her. May her memory bring comfort to those she leaves behind. A Celebration of Life will be held on June 5, 2026, at 12:00 PM at Passalacqua Funeral Chapel, 901 W Second Street, Benicia. A reception will follow. Burial will be private. In honor of Karen's favorite season, the family suggests spring attire for those attending.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN 5. 12:00 PM (PT)

Passalacqua Funeral Chapel
901 W Second Street
Benicia, CA 94510
(707) 745-3130
info@passalacquafuneralchapel.com
<https://www.passalacquafuneralchapel.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Karen Sue Killian.*



June 03 at 01:33 PM



“ *My lovely, talented and kind cousin Karen was one of my oldest friends. She was like a big sister to me, my earliest memories include Karen whether it was the County Fair, Playland at the Beach in San Francisco, Pumpkin Center (Vallejo's version of Disneyland to a four year old), or water skiing at Clear Lake.... Karen was always there. She seemed to have endless patience for a little guy that just wanted to hang out. Throughout my lifetime Karen has always been there.... I miss her now and will for the rest of my days. I love you Karen...
Johnny*

John Bailey - June 03 at 01:23 PM



“ *The Browne & Johnson Family's purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Karen Sue Killian.*



The Browne & Johnson Family's - May 31 at 09:31 PM

RJ

“ Rob Johnson purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Karen Sue Killian.



Rob Johnson - May 15 at 10:46 PM

RJ

“ Rob Johnson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karen Sue Killian.

Rob Johnson - May 15 at 10:46 PM