



## Karen (Weissbeck) Matthews

January 15, 1938 - May 13, 2024

We are devastated to announce the passing of Karen (Weissbeck) Matthews, 86, of Topeka, Kansas. Karen left us on May 13, 2024, suffering from the side effects of treatments for Breast Cancer. Karen was an island of graciousness in a sometimes disagreeable world.

She was a loving wife, sister, aunt, and friend. She was born in Meriden, Kansas. The last of eleven children to Joseph and Barbara (Dreiling) Weissbeck. She graduated from Hayden High School in Topeka and attended Mount St. Scholastica in Atchinson, before graduating with a degree in Education from Washburn University in Topeka. She went on to earn a Masters of Education from Emporia State.

Karen taught at Brookside Elementary in Kansas City, Kansas, then at Parkdale, Belvoir and Whitson Elementary Schools in Topeka. A majority of her teaching career was at Whitson Elementary where she was teacher of the year in 1985 - 1986. Her legacy is not in a big house, huge savings account or travels to exotic lands. Her legacy is the impact she had on the lives of the thousands of students she inspired.

She married the love of her life, Thurlow (Matt) Matthews, July 29, 1970. They were an inseparable force until Matt's passing in November 2020.

Karen is survived by her sister, Mary Jane Murray (Leawood KS); and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; sisters, Helen Weissbeck, Adelaide Penn, Annette Kresie, and Colette Peyton; brothers, Edward Weissbeck, Norbert Weissbeck, Robert Weissbeck, Donald Weissbeck, and Eugene Weissbeck.

Karen loved many things; dogs, cooking, collecting recipes and cookbooks, sipping wine, reading, friends, family, watching birds, sending cards for every occasion, and traveling with Matt. She is known to have only disliked three things; clowns, building gingerbread houses, and FOX news.

Her family and friends will miss visiting Karen's house where when leaving you were always encouraged to take something with you. No one was allowed to leave empty handed.

Visitation will be at 6 to 8 p.m. with a Rosary at 7:30 p.m. at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka, Kansas 66614. Mass of Christian Burial will be 11 a.m. at Mater Dei Holy Name Catholic Church, 1114 SW 10th Street, Topeka, Kansas 66604. Burial will follow in Mount Hope Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Helping Hands Humane Society or Dolly Parton Imagination Library in care of the funeral home.

Condolences may be sent online to [www.kevinbrennanfamily.com](http://www.kevinbrennanfamily.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Mount Hope Cemetery

4700 SW 17th Street  
Topeka, KS 66604

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**MAY 28.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home  
2801 SW Urish Road  
Topeka, KS 66614  
(785) 272-7888  
[info@kevinbrennanfamily.com](mailto:info@kevinbrennanfamily.com)

## Rosary

**MAY 28.** 7:30 PM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home  
2801 SW Urish Road  
Topeka, KS 66614  
(785) 272-7888  
[info@kevinbrennanfamily.com](mailto:info@kevinbrennanfamily.com)

## Mass of Christian Burial

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MAY **29**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Mater Dei Holy Name Church  
1114 SW 10th Street  
Topeka, KS 66604

# Tribute Wall



“ *Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Karen (Weissbeck) Matthews*



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**Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home** - May 22, 2024 at 04:46 PM

SW

*We are so sorry that Aunt Karen has passed. She was always so welcoming and kind, with an infectious smile. She always remembered birthdays and holidays with special cards. She is at peace now.*

*William and Sharon Weissbeck and family*

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**Sharon Weissbeck** - May 22, 2024 at 09:01 PM

TS

“ *Being one of the older nieces of Aunt Karen, my sister and I have so many wonderful memories of Karen. A lot of times, we would pick her up after she worked at Hallmarks, she was covered in glitter, so we thought she was a fairy princess, she would take us to movies on Thanksgiving, and just be our friend. She will always be in my heart. Trudy Penn Stewart*

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**Trudy Stewart** - May 27, 2024 at 03:50 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Karen (Weissbeck) Matthews.



May 27, 2024 at 03:15 PM



“ With love, The Stewart & Dalton Families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karen (Weissbeck) Matthews.

**With love, The Stewart & Dalton Families** - May 27, 2024 at 03:15 PM



“ My sincere sympathay goes to Karen's family--she was such a caring, kind, & considerate person & teacher. I worked with her @ Whitson. Prayers going up for the family's peace & comfort. Marcia Wade

**Marcia W** - May 27, 2024 at 09:08 AM



“ Our family adored Karen Matthews. She taught them much more than just reading. That first grade year of all day school following half day kindergarten, required learning many new things and Karen was a pro. We treasure our time with her.

**Shelle McCoy** - May 26, 2024 at 03:59 PM

CH

“ I loved teaching with Karen at Whitson. Her smile, her gentleness, and kindness along with a great sense of humor are all memories I have of her. Such a special person.

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**Carla Hearrell** - May 26, 2024 at 03:14 PM

VC

“ Our boys were so fortunate to have Mrs. Matthews as their teacher at Whitson. She was so kind and patient and got their academic lives off to a fine start. We all send heartfelt condolences to her family. Vickie Console

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**Vickie Console** - May 26, 2024 at 10:16 AM

SL

“ I am so sorry to hear of Karen's passing. My husband and I have been Karen and Matt's neighbors for over 30 years. She was such a creative person, I've never seen anyone change the color of their front door as many times as Karen did and it always looked beautiful. We enjoyed talking about our dogs with Matt and Karen. We recently moved away and didn't get a chance to tell Karen goodbye. Godspeed sweet lady, the world was a better place with you in it.  
Sara Leonard

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**Sara Leonard** - May 24, 2024 at 11:25 AM

FA

“ From William, Sharon, Josh, Emma, Ally purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Karen (Weissbeck) Matthews.



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**From William, Sharon, Josh, Emma, Ally** - May 22, 2024 at 09:19 PM

JG

“ In 1971 I had a math worksheet that I quickly just filled in random answers. When I got home, Karen was sitting in the living room talking to my mom. They packed me in Karen's car and she took me back to school to finish the worksheet right. In 1998 when I moved back to Topeka I stopped by the school. She recognized me as an adult 27 years later. She Made a difference in this little boy's life. Rest easy beautiful soul.

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**Jonas Goering** - May 17, 2024 at 03:01 PM

SP

“ Karen was a precious soul. I enjoyed working with her for many years at Whitson School. She was a strong, happy and loving first grade teacher. More importantly, she was the fantastic first grade teacher to both of my boys. Rest in Peace, sweet Karen. Chris Parker

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**S. Christine Parker** - May 17, 2024 at 09:21 AM

TG

“ Karen was a good person i didn't know Karen im sending my symphaty to the weissbeck family terry I glenn ❤️

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**Terry I glenn** - May 15, 2024 at 10:46 PM