



Karen Hood Simpson

October 12, 1961 - December 12, 2021

Karen Jean Hood Simpson, 60, of Newburg, passed away suddenly Sunday, December 12, 2021. She was born October 12, 1961, in St. Louis, Missouri, the daughter of James and Janice Hood. She was united in marriage on May 8, 2021, in Tybee Island, GA to Mike Simpson, who survives at the home. Karen was a graduate of St. James High School and continued to have strong ties in the community where she was recently serving as St. James Chamber of Commerce Director and previously with Pulaski County Tourism.

Karen was always a “bootstrap” kind of person. Always willing and able to pull herself up by her bootstraps, this attitude helped her accomplish all her goals and resonated throughout her life. Her vivacious, positive, can-do attitude flowed through her life and work, creating new friendships, both locally and internationally, touching everyone with her kind, caring ways. She loved her family and friends and was always there to help and never gave up on anyone. She contributed and volunteered extensively throughout the area. She was a lover of animals and the natural world, becoming a certified Missouri Master Naturalist and founder of the Roubidoux Grotto caving community. She loved to spend time with her husband, Mike, on the river fishing and kayaking.

Survivors include her husband, daughter, son-in-law, two grandchildren, brothers and sisters, and other friends and family who will cherish and love

her deeply forever. She was preceded in death by her mother and father. A memorial service will be held At 2:00 PM , Thursday, December 16, 2021 at James and Gahr Mortuary in St. James. A visitation will be held at the Chapel prior to the service from 12:00 PM until service time. Memorials are suggested to Roubidoux Grotto Caving Group/ Newburg Children's Museum, or a college fund that is being setup for her grand nephews. Cards are available at all James & Gahr locations.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **16**. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

James & Gahr Mortuary - St. James

117 Seymour St.

St. James, MO 65559

(573) 265-3232

dcjames@fidnet.com

<https://www.jamesgahrmortuary.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ Karen Hood Simpson

January 30, 2023 at 04:37 AM



“ Karen Hood Simpson

January 30, 2023 at 02:54 AM



“ We just today learned of this tragic news.
Karen's passing is a great loss for her communities, as well as for her family.
We met Karen as she began putting together Roubidoux Grotto. She was fun to go caving with and was an avid learner when we held training sessions at our place. She was always ready for a new challenge.
Later, she was a #1 cheerleader when we built a disc golf course on our place. She always wanted more good things for her communities. And, unlike too many, she was more than willing to do the work, to share knowledge, and to encourage others to help make things happen.
Hard and smart worker. Bootstraps indeed.
But she lit up even more whenever she spoke of "my kids in Georgia."
We are so sorry for your unexpected loss. Our condolences to her husband, children, and dear friends. She was good people.
Vic & Diana Bentele of Hanna Hills DGC

Diana Bentele - December 24, 2021 at 10:31 PM

LK

“ Love, Mike, Rachael, Rick and kids purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Karen Hood Simpson.



Love, Mike, Rachael, Rick and kids - December 15, 2021 at 09:36 PM

JH

“ Jeff Houghton and The Mystery Hour purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Karen Hood Simpson.



Jeff Houghton and The Mystery Hour - December 15, 2021 at 04:54 PM

MS

“ Mitzi Sparks purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Karen Hood Simpson.



Mitzi Sparks - December 15, 2021 at 03:50 PM

TA

“ A friend from way back. Although we lost contact, memories of Karen, Cheryl and the rest of the family have crossed my mind many times. We were West Hardy Street neighbors and had a lot of fun from pelting the boys with gumballs, going to school and the pool, to playing spot bug in the evenings. Your accomplishments were many as were your adventures. My heartfelt sympathy to the family, go fly high on that mountain girl...Tina (Smith) Aubuchon

Tina (Smith) Aubuchon - December 15, 2021 at 03:17 PM

JM

“ With our deepest sympathy and love. Karen will be missed more than words can ever say. All our love, Terry and Joby Massey



joby massey - December 15, 2021 at 01:21 PM

LM

“ Love Always, Joe, Jess, Matt, PJ & Mikey purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Karen Hood Simpson.



Love Always, Joe, Jess, Matt, PJ & Mikey - December 15, 2021 at 12:54 PM

LH

“ My sincere thoughts and prayers are with you during this most difficult time!! Karen was a true friend and exceptional human. May God hold you all in his palms.



Lisa Happel - December 15, 2021 at 10:49 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Karen Hood Simpson.*



December 15, 2021 at 10:32 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karen Hood Simpson.*



December 15, 2021 at 09:53 AM



“ *The city of Waynesville is heartbroken over the loss of our longtime friend, Karen. She did so much for our community and will be missed greatly our condolences to her family.*

Luge Hardman - December 15, 2021 at 09:23 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Karen Hood Simpson.*



December 15, 2021 at 07:06 AM