



Karen "Karry" Kay Murphy

October 7, 1955 - April 25, 2026

Karen "Karry" Kay Murphy was born on October 7, 1955 to Harold and Carol Free alongside her twin sister, Sharon, at McClellan Air Force Base in Sacramento County, California. She spent the majority of her childhood in Mason City, Iowa with her other siblings (also twins), Dennis and Denise. Karen enlisted in the United States Army in October of 1974 and trained as a MOS Wheel Vehicle Mechanic, but ultimately worked as a Tams Clerk.

On September 26, 1975, Karen married the love of her life Michael "Mike" David Murphy at the Schloss Philippsruhe Hanau, a German castle and museum located in West Germany. Together, they raised their three children Heather, Kyla, and Kevin in Montague, California. The family shared many happy years camping in the redwoods and spending time on the Northern California Coast. Karen worked as a licensed home daycare provider until she obtained her Licensed Vocational Nurse Degree from College of the Siskiyous. She loved the intense and emotionally charged Emergency Room environment where she worked for over 10 years until she was forced to retire early due to her ongoing battle with lupus.

In her spare time, Karen found joy in being with her family and friends. She loved creating with her hands such as gardening, cooking, baking, and sewing. Karen was known for making baby clothes, special occasion dresses, and other gifts for those around her. Her laughter and empathetic nature

brought people together.

Karen is survived by her husband of 50 years, Michael (Mike) Murphy; daughters Heather Hirschensohn and Kyla Inman; son Kevin Murphy; her grandchildren Kylie, Lauren, and Benjamin; and her great grandchildren Chance and Ayanna. She was preceded in death by her twin sister Sharon Free.

A funeral service will be held on Friday May 8, 2026 at 3pm at Girdner Funeral Chapel in Yreka.

Flowers can be sent to Girdner Funeral Chapel or donations to the lupus foundation of America at www.lupus.org

Cemetery Details

Eagle Point National Cemetery

2763 Riley Road
Eagle Point, OR 97524
[http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/eaglepoint.
asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/eaglepoint.asp)

Previous Events

Funeral Service

MAY 8. 3:00 PM (PT)

Girdner Funeral Chapel
202 S. Oregon St.
Yreka, CA 96097
(530) 842-3434
<https://www.girdnerfuneralchapel.com>

Tribute Wall

LW

“ Loving thoughts from Tad and Cris White purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Karen "Karry" Kay Murphy.



Loving thoughts from Tad and Cris White - May 07 at 02:04 PM

LW

“ Loving thoughts from Tad and Cris White planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karen "Karry" Kay Murphy.

Loving thoughts from Tad and Cris White - May 07 at 02:04 PM

JM

“ Jack & Cathy Murphy purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Karen "Karry" Kay Murphy.



Jack & Cathy Murphy - May 02 at 09:22 AM

JM

“ Jack & Cathy Murphy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karen "Karry" Kay Murphy.

Jack & Cathy Murphy - May 02 at 09:22 AM

DR

“ *Deb Ross,Joel,Merle,Tina,Daniel+familys purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Karen "Karry" Kay Murphy.*



Deb Ross,Joel,Merle,Tina,Daniel+familys - May 01 at 05:33 PM

SC

“ *Sending much love..Cheryl D. Cook purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Karen "Karry" Kay Murphy.*



Sending much love..Cheryl D. Cook - April 29 at 07:44 PM

SC

“ *Sending much love..Cheryl D. Cook planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karen "Karry" Kay Murphy.*

Sending much love..Cheryl D. Cook - April 29 at 07:44 PM