



Karen Virginia Okey

February 24, 1935 - July 17, 2020

Karen Virginia Okey passed away peacefully June 17th, 2020 at the age of 85 from natural causes.

Karen was born in Willisville, IL, to William Howard and Virginia Repke. She was raised in Chicago, and then moved on to Madison, WI to raise her own family. She was involved in many community activities and local politics.

Karen moved to California in the early 1980's and settled in the Rancho Bernardo, Escondido area as did both her mother and eldest daughter. During her time in the community, Karen continued to travel, and play and teach bridge, and stay active in the community. However, her greatest passion was for golf. She was an avid player, and served many roles as a member of the Rancho Bernardo Inn Woman's Golf club. She was supremely proud of her 5 hole-in-ones, and preferred being out on the courses than anywhere else.

On July 14th, 2019, after being together with Robert Gagliano for over 25 years, Karen and Bob married. They enjoyed their life together, and treasured their friends, and their active social life. Bob preceded Karen's death by about 3 months.

Karen is survived by her children, Lynn Okey (San Marcos, CA), Mark Okey (Madison, WI), Kara Speerschnieder (husband Timm) (Madison, WI), her brother Warren Repke (Dee) (Canyon Lake, CA), her sister-in-law Helen Repke (Donald, deceased), and many loving grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Comments



“ Karen was a leader in the RBI Women’s Golf Club when I joined the group in 2014, and she was a fun and organized co-chair of the Club’s Invitational tournament the following year. She had an engaging smile and a great sense of humor, and her kindness was always front and center. She will be missed.

Diane Borden - July 28 at 03:14 PM



“ I met Karen when she joined the RBI women's golf club. Little did I know what a fantastic addition she would be to our club. From almost the moment she joined she engaged in all aspects of the club. She assumed a leadership role on our board of directors and she was always willing to lend a hand or handle a duty that would improve the club. She loved to play golf and had a great sense of humor and wit. She was an intelligent, gracious and caring individual who will be missed greatly by all of us that knew her.

Melissa McBratney - July 27 at 05:03 PM



“ Karen was a client and friend and I will miss her very much!!! She was such a joy to be around and we had excellent conversations as Karen knew and had opinions about a lot of subjects! She also loved to laugh and joke around!!!!☐. I use to always run into Karen and Bob at the bank, and Costco in the produce area, buying watermelon and will continue to remember them every time I walk by there!! We had planned for her to teach me how to play bridge when I retired; and will have to learn elsewhere so that we can play someday in heaven

monique van aalst - July 25 at 08:22 PM



“ Karen was a presence in our club from the moment she and her buddies arrived from CCRB. We all looked at them as “fresh blood” for our ladies golf, and, they were! Every one of them was eager to jump in and assume leadership roles in RBIWGC. As I grew to know Karen better, I discovered she was a Master Bridge player. As I knelt to kiss her feet, she said “Rise, and, I shall teach you.” And, teach us she did. Fittingly, we met in the Veranda Bar, and, she did what she promised. She taught us to play Bridge! Since that time, we have had the most wonderful time together - playing Bridge, laughing, and, drinking mimosas! I will miss her smile, her laugh, her hugs! I’m happy she is at peace, andwith sweet Bob!

Susi Casper

Susi Casper - July 25 at 06:40 PM



“ I first met Karen at the RB Country Club where we were both members. As a beginning golfer I wasn't in the same league but Karen was very kind and willing to play a round of golf with a D player. Bob played golf with my husband on many an occasion. Karen and Bob were both a joy to know. Our condolences to their family.

Arilla St.Laurent - July 25 at 01:54 PM



“ Karen was one of the first people I met at RBIWGC, and was unfailingly gracious, inclusive and fun. I did not realize she had five holes-in-one to her credit (modest lady). She contributed so much to our Club and will be dearly missed. Romona Smith

Romona Smith - July 24 at 06:25 PM



“ I was one of Karen's nurses at Silverado Senior Living. She wasn't with us for long, but we absolutely fell in love with her. She was always taking care of some of the lower functioning residents. Almost always had a smile on her face. I wish I could have known her longer, but she will always have a special place in my heart. Thank you to her family who allowed us to have a small piece of Karen's life. We love you and hope you find peace soon.

Jennifer - July 25 at 01:50 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Alhiser - Comer Mortuary - July 24 at 05:32 PM