



Carey Kucera

July 18, 1959 - October 10, 2024

Carey Carson Kucera, a woman of great faith who loved her family fiercely, died Thursday, Oct. 10, in Carroll, Iowa. She was 65.

A funeral Mass will be held Saturday, Oct. 19, at 10 a.m. at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Carroll. The Celebrant will be Fr. Timothy Johnson. Music will be by Kathy Halbur. Lector for the funeral Mass will be John Carson. Gift Bearers will be Judy and Dick Ruemmele. Interment will be at a later date. Visitation will be held Friday, Oct. 18, from 5-7 p.m. at the Sharp Funeral Home in Carroll with a rosary said at 7 p.m.

Funeral arrangements are under the guidance of the Sharp Funeral Home in Carroll and online condolences may be left for Carey's family at www.sharpfuneral.com.

A Cedar Rapids native, Carey Elizabeth was born to Jane and Gene (Pidge) Carson on July 18, 1959. She was the youngest of five siblings. The Carson home on the hill on C Avenue was full of love. It was a gathering place for aunts, uncles and cousins on the Miller side of the family. Carey had a special place in her heart for Julie Miller Schnoebelen, who was close in age and stayed close for a lifetime.

After graduating from LaSalle High School in 1977, Carey attended Mount

Mercy University in Cedar Rapids. She graduated cum laude in 1981 with a degree in political science. She then interned at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. The skills she learned there would aid her in another passion: genealogy, an activity she enjoyed with her aunt, Mary Margaret (Bud) Stewart.

Carey channeled her love of political affairs into civic engagement, joining the League of Women Voters, Daughters of the American Revolution, PEO and Junior League. She attended St. Elizabeth Ann Seton church in the Cedar Rapids area, which led to meeting the love of her life, Robert (Bob) Kucera. Friends from the parish set them up on a blind date in 1995. They were married on June 7, 1996, at the church. According to Bob, it was love at first sight, with Carey telling him that she knew he was the “marrying kind” as soon as she saw him at the restaurant on that first date.

The couple moved to Carroll in 1998, making their home there since then. They enjoyed eating out, going to the movies, listening to audio books and following political affairs. The couple’s faith was at the core of their lives. Carey was a mighty prayer warrior on behalf of her family and friends. The couple were members of Holy Spirit parish.

Carey was also a proud feminist. “Women’s rights, that was number one on her mind,” her husband Bob remembers.

Health challenges were a reality through much of her life, making it difficult to travel. Carey did not let that interfere with her faith or her love of family. She energetically kept in touch with far-flung siblings, cousins and friends through frequent phone calls. She spoke with many once a week. She had great empathy for anyone else facing health challenges and made sure that extended family knew they had her support when crisis struck.

Carey was preceded in death by her parents and two siblings: Susan Carson Bach and Ann Carson Zirbel.

Carey is survived by her husband Bob Kucera of Carroll; she is also survived by two siblings: John Carson and his wife Hila; and Judy Carson Ruummele and her husband Dick; two brothers-in-law: Kevin Kucera and Wayne Bach. She leaves behind eight nieces and nephews: Emily, Molly, Megan, Julia, Paul, Mike, Christine and Catherine. She had five great-nephews and great-nieces that she adored: Nolan, Theo, Mikko, Luna and Lillian.

In addition to flowers, donations may be made in Carey's honor to the American Red Cross, an organization her mother held a national volunteer leadership position with, and that multiple other family members were involved with.

The world will be a quieter place without Carey's chatty, loving phone calls. May her memory be a blessing to all who knew her.

Tribute Wall

SH

“ *Sheryl Wegner , Caring Hands lit a candle in memory of Carey Kucera*



sheryl Wegner , Caring Hands - October 20, 2024 at 02:10 PM

SS

“ *I was so, so sorry to hear of Carey’s passing. I remember her as a sweet bright light, always chatty and interested in everything. I didn’t know how accomplished she was, but appreciated reading about her many talents. I know she will be missed by so many - and Judy & John, it’s hard to believe there are only 2 of you left. I know how difficult this must be for you. Please know I’m keeping you all in my thoughts, and I wish you and your family love and peace. I hope many happy memories and the love of family and friends sustain you at this sad time. Love to you all, Sally Stephenson*

Sally Stephenson - October 16, 2024 at 02:37 PM

CK

“ *Casey, Clare, Mary, & Kevin Kucera purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Carey Kucera.*



Casey, Clare, Mary, & Kevin Kucera - October 15, 2024 at 10:53 PM

SR

“ So very sorry to loose Carey. Bob you will continue to be in my prayers. I will treasure the memory of many conversations that we shared. Our shared love of reading. She had a great sense of humor and I will miss her very much.

Always

Stephanie from St Anthony's

Stephanie Riedell - October 14, 2024 at 03:30 PM

DO

“ Diane and Bernie Owens purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Carey Kucera.



Diane and Bernie Owens - October 14, 2024 at 10:04 AM

SH

“ Sincerely from Katy and Larry Hubka planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Carey Kucera.

Sincerely from Katy and Larry Hubka - October 13, 2024 at 11:24 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Carey Kucera.



October 13, 2024 at 11:24 PM

NE

“ So sorry for your loss Bob I know how devoted you were to her. Carrie and I became friends through her times in the hospital . I enjoyed my visits to her home, she was a delightful person.

Norma Enos - October 12, 2024 at 11:36 AM

JB

“ I started off as Carey's "Tuesday call," then moved up to Monday after her sister Ann died a few years ago. It just meant that she'd call me that day to check in and reminisce about the old days in Cedar Rapids, when we Huston cousins would get together at the big house on the hill owned by Carey's parents, or at my grandparents' nearby home. Sadly, those calls have come to an end with Carey's passing Thursday. She struggled with many health problems, meaning she didn't get out much. Still, she remained a staunch feminist, committed community member, amazing prayer warrior and loved her husband Robert Kucera and her family fiercely. She cared deeply about maintaining family connections into the next generation and worked hard to forge them with calls to all of us. I will miss her and our running conversation.

Jill Burcum - October 11, 2024 at 05:44 PM

JB

“ Jill Burcum lit a candle in memory of Carey Kucera



Jill Burcum - October 11, 2024 at 05:44 PM

KN

“ Carey was so much fun when I was growing up . I always remember going miniature golfing , movies , walks in the park or hanging with her and her dog . I always thought she was one of the coolest cousins ! She will be missed but I know she is happy to be with her two older sisters and parents again .

Kami Nys - October 11, 2024 at 11:12 AM

ME

Carey was a kind, caring woman. I didn't know her very long, but we became good friends over the phone. I'll miss her calls. Bless you Bob. You took such good care of her and she loved you deeply.

Marchelle England - October 11, 2024 at 12:44 PM