



Karen Joellen Pesce

August 12, 1941 - July 15, 2022

Karen Pesce Fleming, age 80 of Riverdale, New York, died due to cardiovascular disease on July 15, 2022. She was born on August 12, 1941, in Chicago where she grew up. Karen graduated from the University of Wisconsin where she met her husband Lee Pesce (deceased). They had three children who they raised in towns across the Midwest. Karen spent most of her career as a physical therapist. She later earned an MBA from Loyola University of Chicago and took on management roles in healthcare. Karen has lived in Riverdale, Bronx, New York for the last 30 years with her second husband Bill Fleming (recently deceased). Karen believed in supporting civic causes and those in need. She was a regular volunteer throughout her life. Later, she became an officer of the Riverdale Club of Rotary International and was a Committee Chair for the Bronx Community Board. Over the years, she contributed in many other ways such as reading to children at the local library. Karen found friendships and meaning at the

churches

she attended, including Riverside Church in Manhattan where she was a longtime member.

Survivors include her children Julia, Chris (wife Eileen) and Matt (wife Nicole); sister Cherie Forte; and brother Larry Swiatek. She has six grandchildren:

Olivia,

Nicholas, Ashley, Quinn, Kai and Celeste.

A memorial service will be held on Thursday August 4, 2022, at 11:00 am in the

Christ Chapel of The Riverside Church (490 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10027).

Repass/Reception to follow in the Ninth Floor Lounge. Parking provided at the Claremont Avenue Garage (accessed from 120th Street between Riverside Drive

and Claremont Avenue).

Cemetery Details

Cedar Hill Cemetery & Mausoleum

5468 Route 9W North
Newburgh, NY 12550

Previous Events

Memorial Service

AUG 4. 11:00 AM (ET)

The Riverside Church
490 Riverside Drive
New York, NY 10027

Repass/Reception to follow in the Ninth Floor Lounge. Parking provided at the Claremont Avenue Garage (accessed from 120th Street between Riverside Drive and Claremont Avenue).

Tribute Wall

KM

“ Just learning of Karen's passing. I knew her thru her husband, Bill Fleming. I met her at the time of their marriage in 1998. I visited with Bill and Karen at their Rdale coop over the years, always with a cat in attendance. Karen and Bill supported each other, stayed active and engaged in the world. I miss them both. Condolences to her family members whom I always heard about never met. I never had an uninteresting conversation with Karen. Both Bill and Karen extended themselves to me and my family. I'll remain grateful to them, think always of them with a smile. So sorry they are both gone.

Karen Murphy - December 16, 2022 at 08:16 PM

CD

“ Karen has been a wonderful neighbor and friend of ours since she moved to the Dorchester 30 years ago. She helped our building become the close-knit community it has become. If she heard someone needed help in any way, Karen reached out to them. When building get togethers were planned, she made sure no one was left out. She always thought of everyone. Karen was a very special neighbor who will be greatly missed.



John and Carolyn Danisi

Carolyn Danisi - August 03, 2022 at 08:59 PM