



## Karen Elaine Bowen

April 26, 1940 - March 13, 2025

Karen Elaine Bowen, 84, of Sarasota, Florida, and formerly Oskaloosa, passed away on March 13, 2025, in Oskaloosa, under the care of Mahaska Hospice, with her children by her side. A memorial service will be held Friday, May 2, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., at Langkamp Funeral Chapel in Oskaloosa, Iowa, with Pastor Mike Sereg officiating. Burial will be in Forest Cemetery. Memorial gifts in Karen's memory can be made to Mahaska Health Foundation and will be directed to the Hospice Serenity House in Oskaloosa, Iowa.

Karen Elaine Bowen, daughter of Earl and Dorothy (Blake) Walker, was born April 26, 1940, the 7th of 10 children. She was raised on the Shrago Farm and attended West Center, and East Center Country Schools, and Oskaloosa High School.

Karen was married to Gordon Ashman and Robert Burgett; they later divorced. Three children were born to these unions: Kevin, Leisha, and Curtis. For many years, Karen raised her three children as a single parent. She worked two or three jobs simultaneously to provide for her family. Former workplaces include Mahaska Hospital as a Candy Stripe nurse aide, Ideal Manufacturing, the Continental Overall Factory, Hardee's, school bus driver, bus barn secretary, Jemac Club waitress, Paslode Manufacturing, and Oskaloosa School System cafeteria worker.

In 1976, she met the love of her life, Jack Palmer Bowen, and they were married on June 26 of that year. They were married for 45 years until Jack's passing on April 28, 2022. Jack and Karen loved doing everything together,

and he was a great father to her children. One of their favorite pastimes was going to their cabin on the Des Moines River to camp and fish. Karen provided many a good meal there and is known by many as an extraordinary cook. Her homemade noodles, scalloped potatoes, biscuits, and gravy were legendary. To name a few, Karen could take a paltry bunch of leftovers and create a gourmet meal, river stew, and poor man stew. Karen and Jack were exemplary gardeners, growing most of what they ate. They took their yard work seriously; Karen loved to stay busy and was not known to take a nap. Their seven-acre spread was always manicured to golf course standards. After Jack's passing in 2022 and the subsequent sale of their property, Karen moved to her new apartment on her daughter's property in Sarasota, FL. She was able to spend the last years of her life as a Floridian, enjoying the warm winter climate. She loved mowing, working in the yard, and cooking for her family. Karen also enjoyed remodeling projects with her daughter Leisha, watching sunsets, bird watching, crocheting, and putting dozens of puzzles together. She enjoyed her daily visits with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren and welcomed her latest great-granddaughter just days ago. Left to cherish her memory are her children and families: Kevin and Gwen Ashman of Bussey, IA; Leisha and James Kelderman of Sarasota, FL; Curtis and Jennifer Bowen of Roan Mountain, TN; 10 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren. Karen leaves behind her beloved step-children: Terry, Kim, and Guy. She is also survived by her siblings: Dorothy Van Dyk of Plymouth, MN; Sue Sigler of Oskaloosa; Stephen and Janet Walker of Oskaloosa; and a sister-in-law, Virginia Walker of Oskaloosa.

Karen was preceded in death by her husband, Jack Bowen; her parents, Earl and Dorothy Walker; a granddaughter, Lindsey Blake Ashman; and her siblings, Marilyn Walker, Lugene DeJong, Joyce Fox, Earl Walker, David Walker, and Gary Walker.

# Cemetery Details

## Forest Cemetery

934 North 9th ST  
Oskaloosa, IA 52577  
secretary@forestcemetery.com  
<http://www.forestcemetery.org/>

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

**MAY 2. 10:00 AM (CT)**

Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory  
2116 N 3rd St  
Oskaloosa, IA 52577  
(641) 672-2181  
langkampfuneralchapel@gmail.com  
<https://www.langkampfuneralchapel.com>

*Pastor Mike Sereg will officiate. The family will greet visitors at the luncheon held at the V.F.W. following the service.*

# Tribute Wall



“ *Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Karen Elaine Bowen*



Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory - April 30, 2025 at 12:06 PM



“ *Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory created a Webcast in memory of Karen Elaine Bowen*



Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory - April 30, 2025 at 12:05 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Karen Elaine Bowen.*



April 28, 2025 at 07:38 PM

RM

“ Robert Morrison lit a candle in memory of Karen Elaine Bowen



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robert morrison - March 24, 2025 at 11:19 PM

DW

“ There wasn't a project Karen couldn't or wouldn't tackle. She was always in the middle of the action. And could she cook! Just weeks before she passed, I was copying her recipe for ribs while she gave directives from her chair! I believe Dave and I were the lucky recipients of one of the last meals she was able to make- green bean soup and it was delicious. It was so fun to "do Goodwill" with Karen and Leisha when we visited Sarasota. Karen had a eye for bird decor and her apartment and flower beds were decorated with her fun finds. She was a fountain of common sense. She'd lived a lot of life and came through it with wisdom and a smile. Prayers that the memories bring peace and smiles. May you feel the arms of Jesus around you to comfort and uphold you and may he grant you his perfect peace until you meet again.

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Dianne De Wit - March 20, 2025 at 10:01 AM

LS

“ I met Karen through my SIL Leisha & brother James. She was a doer. Whether it was making a homemade meal or helping you complete a project, she was there. Her love language was to serve others. Her no nonsense approach to "get it done" was epic! What a wonderful legacy to leave to her family. My sympathy to her family. May her memory soothe your grief in this season of sorrow.

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Lois Scott - March 20, 2025 at 08:33 AM

VM

“ I got to know Karen at Paslode, what a wonderful and funny lady 😊 we would walk down to her pond on "Field Trips" on sunny days during work time! She always let us take our kids down to fish in her pond when they were little, and even as adults. Always had to stop and have a little chat before hand, they had the most beautiful property, you could tell they loved it ✨ RIP Karen, and hugs to her family 🤗

Veronica Montgomery - March 17, 2025 at 10:56 PM

CS

What a great lady Karen was. We were neighbors & worked together T Paslode. I can't believe she lived in the same town in Fl. As my Grandson. I'm glad she got to enjoy her last days with your kids. May she rest in peace as she is joined with Jack. Thinking of her family!

connie Scharff - March 18, 2025 at 10:54 AM

JF

“ Jackie Ferree lit a candle in memory of Karen Elaine Bowen



Jackie ferree - March 17, 2025 at 07:34 PM

BN

“ Becky Netten lit a candle in memory of Karen Elaine Bowen



Becky Netten - March 17, 2025 at 07:01 PM

 John  
Edwards

“ I worked with Karen at Paslode. She could work circles around everyone. Her and Jo would put out 10 hours of production in 8 just so they could be home sooner. Great lady.

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**John Edwards** - March 17, 2025 at 05:54 PM

LG

“ I have so many great memories of times I had with Aunt Karen. She would watch even my parents would go to Canada and after I had my appendix out. Dusting was my chore. I will miss her for sure. We was an amazing aunt.

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**lynette Gordon** - March 17, 2025 at 05:19 PM