



## Karen Sue Short

May 7, 1940 - January 4, 2026

Karen Short

Karen Sue Short, 85, passed away peacefully at home on Sunday, January 4, 2026. Born to Emerson and Dessie (née Blakeley) Moss in Springfield, Illinois on May 7, 1940, she was a life-long resident of Menard County. Her grandparents were Oscar and Anna Blakeley and Elmer and Ollie Jane Moss.

Karen greatly enjoyed her first 18 years of life in Oakford, Illinois. She graduated from Petersburg Harris High School in 1958 and married Jim Short on August 3 of that year. They started farming in Greenview, Illinois, then moved their family back to Oakford 13 years later. Karen and Jim were together for nearly 42 years before his passing on June 25, 2000.

In her youth, Karen knew everyone in and around Oakford (and possibly the county) and was seemingly involved in everything – often taking a leadership role. Some even called her a ‘pillar’ of the Oakford community. She was known to be generous, kind, a champion of the less fortunate, and keeper of the records. She also enjoyed time with family and friends, genealogy research, reading books, care-taking, doing puzzles, and all around ‘piddling’. She touched innumerable lives and will be missed by many.

Karen’s involvement in local school, church, and community activities were

extensive in her prime, but she chose the following as highlights for her obituary: an active member of the Oakford United Methodist Church; 20 years as a 4-H leader; 20 years as a Menard County election judge; and 25 years as Oakford News Correspondent for the Petersburg Observer. She was also a former member and regent of the Pierre Menard Chapter of NSDAR.

Karen was preceded in death by her husband; parents; stepfather Elmer Anderson and stepmother Doris Moss; sisters Jane Ann Moss and Anita Peters; brothers-in-law Bob Peters and Stanley Short; sister-in-law Sally Moss; and brother Dick Moss.

Karen is survived by her daughters, Diane Short of West Frankfort, Illinois, Barbara (Tyler) Lakin of Kansas City, Missouri, and Susan Short of Champaign, Illinois; two grandchildren, Sara (Chris) Jaeger of Chesterfield, Missouri, and Michael (Brittany) Short of Mt. Vernon, Illinois; six great-grandchildren, Lakin, Bennett, Julia and Siah Jaeger, and Blakely and Lincoln Short; brother Ron Moss of Greenview, Illinois; sister-in-law Barb Moss of Petersburg, Illinois; an honorary daughter Missy Ramsey; several cousins and many nieces and nephews.

A visitation will be held on Thursday, January 8, 2026, from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm at Hurley Funeral Home in Petersburg, Illinois. The funeral service will be held on Friday, January 9, 2026, at 10:00 am at the Oakford United Methodist Church in Oakford, Illinois. Burial will follow the funeral service at Oakford Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Oakford United Methodist Church or to a charity of the donor's choice.

Hurley Funeral Home in Petersburg is assisting Karen's family with final arrangements. Please visit [hurleyfh.com](http://hurleyfh.com) for Karen's online obituary.



# Cemetery Details

## Oakford Cemetery

Oakford, IL

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 8. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Hurley Funeral Home - Petersburg  
122 West Douglas Avenue  
Petersburg, IL 62675  
(217) 632-2500  
<https://www.hurleyfh.com/>

## Funeral Service

JAN 9. 10:00 AM (CT)

Oakford United Methodist Church  
210 E Center St  
Oakford, IL 62673

## Burial

JAN 9 (CT)

Oakford Cemetery  
Oakford, IL



# Tribute Wall

SF

“ *Shanea and Jennifer your Tlp Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Karen Sue Short.*



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**Shanea and Jennifer your Tlp Family** - January 08 at 10:46 AM

CB

“ *I knew Karen for over twenty-five years through her gem of a daughter, Susan.*

*MammaWamma, as Susan called her, was always welcoming to us "Big City" (Champaign) folk. And, no matter the topic, she always had a dimpled smile, a twinkle in her eye, and something to say! Even with her waning health, she was pleasant and twinkley.*

*And, when she ventured north, I counted myself lucky to get a call to come to Susan's for Karen's freshly fried morel mushrooms. What a treat!*

*I will remember Karen fondly - dimpled and twinkling - and promise to support Susan through the loss of her MammaWamma.*

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**Carol Baxter** - January 07 at 06:56 PM

BL

“ *Diane, Barb and Susan sending hugs and prayers. I have so many wonderful memories about your mom and the three of you. We had so much fun and I learned a lot from your mom, 4H and church as well as becoming friends with you girls.*

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**Betsy Tanner LaMaster** - January 07 at 06:15 PM

BB

“ *Bill and Robin Baughman lit a candle in memory of Karen Short*



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**Bill and Robin Baughman** - January 07 at 12:18 PM

LH

“ *Larry and Mary Hundt sent a virtual gift in memory of Karen Short*



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**Larry and Mary Hundt** - January 07 at 08:25 AM

RS

“ *Karen Short was a wonderful woman! She is a big part of my memories growing up in the Oakford UMC. In later years, she always made a point to send an annual birthday card as well as cards commemorating many milestone events. She was a sweet and thoughtful lady and always giving of her time and talents to the community.*

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**Rachel Schulte** - January 06 at 08:53 PM

NF

“ Aunt Karen was always there with a smile and a witty story to tell us of our past adventures when we were kids. She was a terrific baker and made the best sweet tea ever! Aunt Karen knew everyone around. She was always there for our family and you could always count on her Christmas card to be full of adventures to make you chuckle. This past Christmas letter made me smile as always with her matter of fact wit! You sure will be missed Aunt Karen. Tell mom Happy Birthday for me!  
Nancy Fields

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**Nancy Fields** - January 06 at 07:29 PM



“ I will always remember Karen's smile. She was a sweet lady.  
Prayers for the family  
Sherry and Steve Johnson

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**Sherry Johnson** - January 06 at 02:36 PM

TH

“ TERNI HINRICHS sent a virtual gift in memory of Karen Short



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**TERNI HINRICHS** - January 06 at 12:34 PM