



Karen Ruth Strang

March 31, 1943 - August 14, 2025

STRANG, KAREN RUTH (nee Jacobs) was born March 31, 1943 to Irwin Jacobs and Irma Jacobs (nee Crowder) in Trenton, Missouri.

She grew up in a small town in rural Missouri, where she lived next door to her grandparents and the next town over from her aunts. In her youth, she played the flute, and was a drum major as well as a majorette. She attended Humphreys High School, graduating in a class of only 11 students, before attending Northeast Missouri State Teachers College (now known as Truman State University), where she met her loving husband of nearly 60 years, Bob.

Karen moved to southeast Michigan in 1964, where she became a Kindergarten teacher at Robert Frost Elementary School in Warren. Though she retired from teaching when her first child was born, she and her husband Bob started a heating and cooling business, Air Conditioning Engineers, around that time. She worked in many capacities with the company, including as secretary, accounts payable, accounts receivable, running payroll, and anything else that needed to be done.

She was a caregiver for many over the course of her life. She also strongly invested in her family and friendships, including several which spanned many decades and even her entire life. Karen never met a stranger — she was a friend to all.

She loved to travel to the condo she shared with her husband in Naples, Florida, as well as the cottage Up North.

Karen was a beloved wife of the late Robert Strang and cherished mother of Julie (Jack) Costello and Sheri Ray-Lynne Strang; a proud grandmother of Emily (Amanda) Costello, Sarah Costello, and grandpuppy Sadie; a dear sister of the late Charlotte Jacobs; and sister-in-law to Jerry Strang and Chris Strang. She will also be greatly missed by two nieces, one nephew, one great niece, and many other family and friends.

Visitation Sunday 3-8pm and Monday 9:30am until time of service, 10:30am, at Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons, Inc. (Shelby Township) 54880 Van Dyke at 25 Mile Rd. Interment at White Chapel Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations to Hospice of Michigan. Share memories with the family in their online guestbook at WujekCalcaterra.com.

Cemetery Details

White Chapel Memorial Cemetery

621 W Long Lake Rd
Troy, MI 48098

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 17. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons Inc, Shelby Township
54880 Van Dyke
Shelby Township, MI 48316

Funeral Service

AUG 18. 10:30 AM (ET)

Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons Inc, Shelby Township
54880 Van Dyke
Shelby Township, MI 48316

Tribute Wall



“ *Wujek ~ Calcaterra & Sons, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Karen Ruth Strang*



Wujek ~ Calcaterra & Sons, Inc. - August 16, 2025 at 03:24 PM

JC

This is very beautiful. What a life! The pictures and songs chosen are a wonderful tribute to Karen's life.

Jeannie Costello - August 16, 2025 at 06:19 PM

JP

“ *Mrs Strang was my kindergarten teacher at Frost Elementary School in 1968. She was a positive influence on my life. Peace to her and all her family and friends.*

Jim Paratore - October 09, 2025 at 04:26 PM

DS

“ *Every time we got a chance to see and visit with Karen at family gatherings, she was easy to talk with and had a great sense of humor. We always knew she loved her family very much.*

Dick and Kathie Stevens - August 19, 2025 at 06:11 PM

MN

“ Mom Strang was perhaps the kindest, most patient, loving and generous person I’ve known. Sheri and I met in preschool and have been inseparable for almost 50 years, even though I live across the country now. There were countless sleepovers at the Strangs and Mom always made me feel welcomed and cared for. Sheri and I got up to a fair amount of shenanigans over the years and Mom never stayed upset with either of us. She always made sure we had snacks and drinks. Even when we woke her up at all hours of the night with our giggling fits.

I remember her being dedicated and tireless in caring for her family - I was so envious of the Halloween costumes she made for Sheri in elementary school! I remember their trips to Missouri every summer to visit her relatives and how lovingly she cared for her mother and her sister.

She and Bob were like second parents to me and they were always loving, supportive and encouraging of my life and goals.

I will miss you very much Mom Strang. Heaven is lucky to have such a bright shining star. All my love to Sheri and Julie, my heart is with you both and I’m so glad you both were by her side.

Melissa Buckingham Nolan - August 18, 2025 at 12:03 AM

MD

“A beautiful light has gone out on earth to shine even brighter in heaven.” I worked for Karen and Bob for many years at Air Conditioning Engineers during high school and college. They were both very generous. I remember skating on the lake behind their house with Julie and Sheri. My condolences to the family. You have many precious memories to treasure. God Bless.

Marie DiMambro - August 17, 2025 at 04:44 PM

FR

“ It wasn't long after we moved onto Abbey Ln that we knew Karen was going to be a close and special friend. Our children were similar in age to Julie and Sheri, so we shared many joys and sorrows that go along with raising a family. While she and Bob moved to another neighborhood close by, our friendship continued to grow. Friday night dinners out, holiday parties, summer Bar B Q's - too many to mention and lots of fun!! We would visit them at their cottage in northern Michigan and beautiful condo in Naples, Florida. What we learned about Karen is that she was someone you could rely on, loving, and generous. She was dedicated to Bob, Julie and Sheri and worked extremely hard making their air conditioning business very successful. We are so blessed for having her in our lives!! Florane and Rich Roose

Florane and Rich Roose - August 16, 2025 at 09:07 PM

GM

“ Karen! It's hard to separate her from her husband Bob as they were a lifelong team. She was an angel that was placed on earth. She was always there for her family and friends. The girl from a small Missouri town made it big in the big city! We shared a 62 year friendship and thought of Karen as family and a sister. We had lots of laughs over the phone during the last few months as we reminisced about the past. Karen, we love you and already miss you. Love George and Kathy Murray

George & Kathy Murray - August 16, 2025 at 03:40 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karen Ruth Strang.*



August 16, 2025 at 11:13 AM



“ *We were blessed to have known Karen for 62 years. She came from a small town in Missouri, but she brought big style and warmth wherever she went. Whether she was decorating her home or hosting one of her unforgettable parties, everything she touched had a special flair that made people feel welcomed and celebrated. Above all she loved her girls immensely-they were pride, her joy, and her life. She will be dearly missed, but we know she will be reunited with Bob to celebrate their 60th Anniversary.*

Karen Pascaretti - August 15, 2025 at 09:35 PM

JP

“ *The Strang Family and the Peterfeso family have shared a strong connection since childhood. Bob and Joe grew up together in Warren Mich. and formed a strong friendship that lasted forever. Both married girls with very similar backgrounds. Though I grew up in Germany, but just like Karen, in a very small town and attended elementary school with just 11 Students. the similarities didn't stop there.*

We found we shared the same values, and our friendship grew ever stronger.

Karen and Bob became Godparents to our son Craig.. We considered each other Family.

Karen and I became even closer after Bobs passing.

Noone ever had a better friend than Karen.

She was the most thoughtful, kind and generous person

She was fun loving, had a great sense of humor and I'll miss her easy laughter. Thank you for the memories my dearest friend. You'll be missed..by everyone that knew you...

Rest in peace.

Condolences to Julie and Sheri who have been with their Mom every minute of every day to make her passing easier. Your dedication is the greatest tribute to your Mom. She raised you well and was always so proud of you. What a priceless gift you gave your Mom.

She passed with both her daughters holding her hands surrounded by endless love

joe and Barbara Peterfeso - August 15, 2025 at 01:19 PM

JL

“ *Dear Sheri and Julie and Family*

So sorry for your loss. May you find comfort in the many wonderful times you shared with your Mom. Your parents were so fortunate to have shared almost 60 years together. Memories of their love for all of you will always bring you joy.

JOANNE LABRECQUE - August 15, 2025 at 10:21 AM

KP

I was blessed to have known Karen for 62 years. She came from a small town in Missouri, but she brought big style and warmth wherever she went. Whether she was decorating her home or hosting one of her unforgettable parties, everything she touched had a special flair that made people feel welcome and celebrated. Above all, she loved her girls immensely-they were her pride, her joy, and her life. She will be dearly missed.

Karen Pascaretti - August 15, 2025 at 09:14 PM

MF

“ Matthew F. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karen Ruth Strang.

Matthew F. - August 15, 2025 at 08:06 AM

PS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Phyllis Sapp - August 14, 2025 at 11:46 PM

PS

Karen Jacobs, and Phyllis Jeffries, age 6 for both of us.

Phyllis Sapp - August 15, 2025 at 03:49 AM

DB

“ Karen was such a loving and kind person. She never met a stranger. She was loved by many. She was very supportive of her family, community and various charities. Karen will be sorely missed, but her heavenly father knew she needed rest. Condolences and Prayers to all her many friends, family and all who knew and loved her. Rest well my beautiful friend 💕



Don, Maxine & Joshua Butler - August 14, 2025 at 11:07 PM

DB

Maxine Butler & Family

Don, Maxine & Josh Butler - August 14, 2025 at 11:16 PM

CM

“ Now reunited with Bob, rest in peace, sweet cousin. Carol Starr Mesey

Carol Mesey - August 14, 2025 at 10:42 PM

KG

“ Mom Strang was my second mom for so many years. I have so many incredible years of memories with Mom and Dad Strang at their home with Sheri and she always considered me her third daughter. Her joyful laugh, easy going nature and love for all of her family will be missed. My love is with the entire Strang family and I am so grateful for the many years of memories and love because she was in my life. Love you, mom I will miss you. ❤️❤️
Karen Gummo

Karen Gummo - August 14, 2025 at 10:26 PM