



Karyn Wahlstrom

June 26, 2008

IRON MOUNTAIN - Karyn Jean Wahlstrom, 56, of Breitung Township, died Thursday, June 26, 2008, at the Dickinson County Memorial Hospital.

She was born on April 11, 1952, in Iron Mountain, the daughter of Rugean (McDonnell) Fraker and the late Leon Fraker.

Karyn graduated from Iron Mountain High School in 1970, and attended Eastern Michigan University.

On July 10, 1971, she married John D. Wahlstrom at the First Presbyterian Church in Kingsford.

Karyn was an educational assistant at Breitung Township Schools. She was a very active member of the First Presbyterian Church, where she served as an elder, sang in the choir, and was the praise music leader. Karyn was also a member of the Order of the Eastern Star.

She loved her family very much and enjoyed spending time with them, especially her grandchildren. She also enjoyed skiing, photography and most recently running.

She is survived by her husband, John; three daughters, Jennifer (Tim) Spreen

of Iron Mountain and their children, Ella and Jack; Melissa (Brian) Jones of Clarksville, Tenn. and their children, Keira, Paige, and Carter; and Kristin (Mark) Novara of Kingsford and their son, Nicolas; her mother, Rugean Fraker of Iron Mountain; one brother, Dennis (Suzanne) Fraker of Iron Mountain; and her father in-law and mother-in-law; Jack and Betty Wahlstrom of Iron Mountain.

She was preceded in death by her father, Leon Fraker.

Visitation will be Tuesday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church.

Memorial services will be Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the church. Rev. Michael March will officiate.

Burial will be in Cemetery Park in Iron Mountain.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Presbytery Point Church Camp c/o First Presbyterian Church, 395 Hamilton Ave., Kingsford, MI 49802

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Karyn J. Wahlstrom online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com

The funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home of Iron Mountain.

Tribute Wall

TB

“ *Wahlstrom Family: my deepest sympathies at the far too soon passing of your mother, wife and grandmother. Having raised my young children next to the -then young- Carey kids allowed me get to know Karyn's daughters (babysitting) and Karyn at Carey family/freind gatherings. You girls-- Jenn, Melissa, Kristen try to hang in there. Your loss is a profound loss and you are in my thoughts often. Peace To You.*

Therese Bujold - July 07, 2008 at 12:00 AM

EM

“ *Dear John, It has been many years since we moved from the Iron Mountain area, but I was just checking out the Daily News and their archives...then I came across Karyn's notice. We are deeply saddened by your loss. May the love of family and friends help you through the rough times ahead. God Bless all of your family. Esley & Sharon Mattson, Munising*

Esley & Sharon Mattson - July 03, 2008 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ *To several great families,
I can not image what you are going through and how your hearts may feel right now. Please know that you all will be in my daily prayers, honestly. Karyn was an amazing person in so many ways and will be missed by so many. I am thankful to have had the opportunity growing up near someone as caring, talented, loving and inspiring as Karyn. All I have of my heart goes out to you and I am so sorry. I know everyone always says this but I really do mean it, if you need anything, I will give it my best.
Liz Smoot*

Liz Smoot - July 02, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Dear Rugene, Dennis and Karyn's family:
We send our sympathy to you all. Our daughter, Pam, told us of Karyn's passing and it is hard to believe. She was such a vibrant person with so much talent, particularly in music. She will be greatly missed by your family and the Iron Mt. community. Jim sang in choir beside Regene for many years. May you know the comfort of our heavenly Father.

Sincerely,
Ruth & Jim Brandt

Jim and Ruth Brandt - July 02, 2008 at 12:00 AM

KV

“ John, Jen, Sissa, and Kristin,
i am so sorry to hear of the passing of your mother. i didn't find out until last night bout 10:00. please call me if there is anything you need. i am so sorry everyone. she was loved by everyone who knew her. i love you guys. please take care and get ahold of me if there is anything i can do for you guys. if you just need someone to talk to sissa, i am here. please dont forget that. love you guys. take care

kim verrette(knutson) - July 02, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ I am so sorry to hear of your loss. Please know you are all in my thoughts and prayers. Kristin if you need someone to talk to, please know that I am here for you.

Becky Belanger - July 02, 2008 at 12:00 AM

KL

“ I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your mother. Kristen if you need to talk at anytime day or night, you have my number. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Kara Leonard - July 02, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ Dear John, Dennis, Rugene and Family,
It broke my heart to hear of Karyn's sudden death. It is still quite difficult to even take it in and I can only imagine the loss you all must feel. She and I have known each other since Miss Donna's dance classes (in 3rd grade!) and have remained friends over the years, even though we have only managed to see each other every other year or so for the last decade. When we did connect, however, it was always as though we had just had a pause in our conversation and were now picking it up again. I hope it will be like that when I see her again in heaven! I know that all of you were the absolute lights of her life and so I pray now that her light will shine on each of you and offer some comfort. Look for her in the sky! My thoughts and prayers are with each of you!

Margi Peterson Wasson - July 02, 2008 at 12:00 AM

GF

“ To the Wahlstrom Family and friends: Karyn's was a noble life, the loss is tragic and felt by many. My sincerest of thoughts to all.

Greg Feleppa - July 02, 2008 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ Jen, Melissa, and Kristen,
I want to express my deepest sympathy to you and your family at this loss. I will always remember your mom as being so warm and welcoming. You are in my thoughts and prayers, Leigh

Leigh Begres - July 01, 2008 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ We are keeping your family in our thoughts and prayers. Our children enjoyed Mrs. Wahlstrom's presence in the school and at church. She had a inviting personality and it was obvious that she loved interacting with kids! She will be missed.

Chuck, Polly, Charlie & Meryl (Luoma) Mannisto - July 01, 2008 at 12:00 AM

AR

“ I am deeply sorry about the loss of Karyn. She was a wonderful woman that touched so many lives. My thoughts and prayers go out to your family.

Amanda Rosenberg - July 01, 2008 at 12:00 AM

TN

“ It is a loss to those of us who remain here on this earth.

But Karyn has go to our Father and already gained her new birth.

We remain here to toil each day and suffer through our grief

Karyn now knows no pain and and lives in God's relief

Amen to all of her friends and family

Tom and Esther Neuner - July 01, 2008 at 12:00 AM

LR

“ Dear Rugean and family of karyn.....It is with sadness that I send this message...I never knew Karyn as an adult but remember her as a little girl..What a delightful child....To you Rugean I can't imagine losing a child. My prayers and thoughts go out to you and Dennis and of course her family whom I have never met...Sincerely.Lois Verley Ring

Lois Verley Ring - July 01, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ My prayers are with ALL of you. I have been praying and thinking of ALL of you all day. God had other plans for her but rest assure that she is right there with HIM. When I get back from MN I will try to talk with everyone at that time.PEACE to all. Love, (Super) Janegk

Jane G. Kamper - July 01, 2008 at 12:00 AM

H(

“ I am very saddened by your sudden loss. I know all to well how hard it hits. My last memory of Karyn is the sound of her beautiful voice at my father's funeral last August. Karyn was one of the most loving and kind people one could ever meet and enjoy. She spent many waking hours with my grandmother (Dorothy Underhill Uren)in her last hours. My thoughts have been with the family since I heard the tragic news and my prayers have been endless. Remember Footprints....He is carrying you all right now and I am sure Karyn is right by his side.

Heather Lemcke (Underhill) - June 30, 2008 at 12:00 AM

AS

“ Jen, I am so sad to hear about your Mom's passing. I want you to know that you're in my thoughts & prayers.

Amanda Sanicki - June 30, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ To my wonderful family, I am so shocked and saddened by Karyn's passing. Karyn truly was an amazing person. Growing up she really was a second mother to me and I will never forget all the beautiful memories I have of spending summers at your house on the river taking pontoon boat rides, our days spent together at Connie's pool, and every Christmas that your family would come to our house and how we would play with the cabbage patch dolls your mother made for us all. My most vivid memory of Karyn was when my grandfather passed away and she was singing in the choir at his funeral. The sadness was too much for me so Karyn took me up into the choir and held me while I sobbed and she sang hymns. She was the only one that could give me any comfort that day. I just wish I could be there to hold you all and give you some of the same comfort that she gave me. I am so sorry I cannot be there to grieve and remember with you. I know it is difficult, but please try to think of all the great times we all had with her and know that she is looking down on us from heaven. Please let us know if there is anything at all we can do for you. I love you all - Bear

Sheryl (Hooper) Maloney - June 30, 2008 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ My deepest sympathy to all of Karyn's family. I was so saddened to hear of her passing. We were great high school friends. I last saw Karyn 4 years ago at the mall in Iron Mountain while running errands. She looked great !! Although we didn't keep in touch, I felt that we were able to pick up like we were never apart ! Karyn was a great help and comfort to me when my father died many years ago. I will always be grateful to her for that. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

Pamela Benso - June 30, 2008 at 12:00 AM

KT

“ Jen - I was very sorry to hear about your mom's sudden passing. When we were in high school, you always had one of the "cool moms"! Know that I am praying for you and your family.

Kristen (Olson) Toth - June 30, 2008 at 12:00 AM

EF

“ Kristin & Jen,
I am so sorry about your mom.
My thoughts and prayers are w/you both and your family.
Erin Franz (Forest Park Elem.)

Erin Franz - June 30, 2008 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ Jen and Krisin, my heart goes out to you both.

Tim Harmon - June 30, 2008 at 12:00 AM

PT

“ Dear John and family,

I was shocked to hear that Karyn had passed. She was my classmate throughout school, from kindergarten on through graduation. Many of us share your grief, if only distantly. She was a wonderful woman.

Peter Trembath

Peter H. Trembath - June 30, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ I am so very sorry to hear of Karyn's passing. It was a pleasure to have her as a part of my church life for the past 15 years. To Jenn, Melissa and Kristin, I saw how your relationship with your mom was and it was definitely more a friendship than anything else. You had such a wonderful connection with her and I am so saddened for your loss. To the entire Wahlstrom/Fraker family, you are a wonderful group of people who encourage, support and open-heartedly accept everyone you meet just as Karyn was and did. I will never forget all of the wonderful memories I spent with Karyn and her wonderful family members over the past years, especially summers at the Point. With prayers and love, I send my deepest sympathy and most sincere condolences to all of you.

Betsy Miller - June 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ Our deepest sympathys to John and Family. Please accept our deepest condolences, you and your family will be in our thoughts and prayers over your loss.

marilyn&gary spigarelli - June 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

EJ

“ To such a dear and kind hearted family- I am so sorry for the hurt and the pain you are going through. Words can't express my sorrow I feel for you. Karyn touched many hearts in this world including ours. She offered alot of herself to her family and may others. She was an excellent EA at school. I am thankful she wathched over the boys when she was there, now she will be watching at a different angle. She will be sadly missed by us all. Much Love!!!!

Eliza&Fred Mitchell,Gavin&Aden Johnston - June 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ Dear Rugene,Dennis,John,and children and family,to my cuz'I am so SHOCKED,words alone aren't enough..I LOVE YOU ALL SO MUCH,even tho I'm not there.I have alot of memories of karyn.She was my cuz that watched over me when I was young.,and growing up my mom i'm sure made Karyn watch me.She draged me to football games,when I was in jr high.She was the best.To karyns daughters and grandchildren,you had the best, and you will never forget what she told you at the times you needed her.,and Dennis,the best brother anyone could ask for,and sister in law Susie,may god bless you all in this sad time.and John,all your years together,the love you both had got stronger every day.You had such a wonderful marriage.,and family anyone could ever ask for.Antie Rugene,I never forgot how wonderful you are, I am so sorry you lost your daughter.May god be with you and bless you now and forever.I love you all. Maureen Julian Pasten

maureen julian pasten - June 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ Many, many good memories or Karyn and family and their favorite place - Presbytery Point. The weeks at camp, the camp committee meetings in Escanaba...I know we have lost a wonderful lady. My sincere condolences and kindest thoughts from Oak Creek, Wisconsin.

Ron Clone - June 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM

VO

“ Words will never be enough to express my deepest sympathy at this sad time. Just know you're in my thoughts, and if there's anything I can do, call me.

Vicki O'Neil - June 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM

AR

“ John and family; Dennis and family; Rugean; Jack, Betty and family: You are in our thoughts and prayers. I know Karyn is at peace with this, though she hurts for all of us on earth who are left behind to grieve. She was strong in her faith and always said she knew she would be in a far better place. You know she could never say, "No" to someone in need, so when God called and told her he needed her, she had to go. His need must have been great because for her to leave you was the ultimate sacrifice. YOU, her family, meant everything to her. We care about you and are here if you need us.
Gordy and Alice

Alice and Gordy Reed - June 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ I was shocked and saddened by the news of Karyn's passing. My condolences to you, her family, and know that you are in my prayers. May God give you peace and comfort. Mary Couper

Mary Couper - June 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ My deepest condolences to the extended Wahlstrom-Fraker family and to her countless friends. I'll carry my memories of Karyn (from the Peninsula Singers/DCCT years) in my heart. Angel choir must be in need of a strong alto.

Though I am on the West Coast, my thoughts and prayers are with you as you work through this sad and unwelcome transition.

Denise Smith - June 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ I love you guys and if you need me for anything, you know where I am!

Carol

Carol Wicklund - June 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ My condolences Karyn's family. I was a classmate of Karyn's, and her daughter Kristin was a classmate of my children Veronica-leigh Olson and Michael Lippert. Our prayers go out to your family, Karyn will be in my memories forever.

Lynn Sauve - June 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM

KD

“ Our deep sympathy to all of Karen's family. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her. She was a great inspiration at church and life in general. She is so young and had allot more to give. I know what you are going through as my mom past almost a year ago at a young age (58) and the shock and devistation you are currently experiencing. Please remember that she is with our maker and He must have had different plans for her. Should you need anything, please call. Even if it's just someone to talk to, I'm always up for a walk and/or coffee. Sometimes just talking to someone else that's been there can help.

With thoughts and prayers, The Doda's

Kathy Doda - June 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ I was saddened to learn of Karen's passing. My condolences to her family and friends. It is always sad to see someone that you knew in school and shared classes with go. There is a certain bond that sticks with us all over the years. Karen was a unique person. I never heard her say anything but pleasant words to other people and when she spoke to you, she mostly smiled. She was very genuine and warm. She will certainly become one of God's favorite angels

Gregg Ball - June 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM