



Karen Ann Gillingham

June 16, 1958 - January 24, 2026

Karen Ann Gillingham (née Gardner), age 67, passed away peacefully on January 24, 2026, at her home in Pointblank, Texas.

Karen was born in 1958 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to Albert J. Gardner and Shirley Gardner, both of whom preceded her in death. She later made her home in Texas, where she built a life centered on love, family, service, and friendship.

Karen shared 47 wonderful years of marriage with her beloved husband, Dan Gillingham. Together they raised a family that was the heart of her world. She was a devoted mother to Lisa Vrazel and Brad Gillingham and his wife Merritt, and a proud and loving grandmother to Hunter, Kori, and Callan, who brought her endless joy. She is also survived by her brother Albert Gardner, his wife Lynda, and nephews Chad and Kyle.

Karen earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Texas and dedicated 28 years of compassionate service as a nurse at Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ) Hospital in Houston. Nursing was more than a career—it was a calling that reflected her generous heart, strength, and unwavering care for others.

In her personal life, Karen loved fishing, especially the peace of being on the water, as well as traveling and playing games with friends, where laughter was always guaranteed. She was a warm, lovely soul who lit up every room she walked into, leaving a lasting impression on everyone she met.

A celebration of Karen's life will be held at 11am on Sunday, February 1st,

2026, at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home, located at 10129 FM 1097 Rd W, Willis, Texas 77318. The service will be followed by a brief graveside service, and then a reception, all taking place at the same location.

Karen's kindness, laughter, and love will live on in the hearts of her family and friends forever.

Cemetery Details

Smith Memorial Park Cemetery - Willis

10129 FM 1097 Rd W
Willis, TX 77318
(936) 890-0454
greg@shmfh.com
<https://www.shmfh.com>

Previous Events

Funeral Service

FEB 1. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Willis
10129 FM 1097 Rd. W
Willis, TX 77318

Celebration of Life Reception

FEB 1. 12:00 PM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Willis
10129 FM 1097 Rd. W
Willis, TX 77318

Graveside Service

FEB 1. 12:00 PM (CT)

Smith Memorial Park
10129 FM 1097 Rd W
Willis, TX 77318

Tribute Wall



“ *Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Karen Ann Gillingham*



Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - January 28 at 05:16 PM

RG

What a wonderful collection of lifetime memories.

Roy Gillingham - January 30 at 03:15 AM

DL

“ *Duane L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karen Ann Gillingham.*

Duane L. - February 01 at 04:18 PM

RM

“ *Rhonda and Rodger Martin purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Karen Ann Gillingham.*



Rhonda and Rodger Martin - February 01 at 10:39 AM



“ Kevin & Michelle McManis planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karen Ann Gillingham.

Kevin & Michelle McManis - January 30 at 03:20 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Karen Ann Gillingham.



January 30 at 03:20 PM



“ Jim & Lynda Gilley purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Karen Ann Gillingham.



Jim & Lynda Gilley - January 30 at 02:44 PM



“ John and Dina Hafley purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Karen Ann Gillingham.



John and Dina Hafley - January 30 at 02:44 PM

SL

“ St. Luke's Health Memorial Livingston purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Karen Ann Gillingham.



St. Luke's Health Memorial Livingston - January 30 at 01:45 PM

WF

“ Wiener family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karen Ann Gillingham.

Wiener family - January 29 at 02:44 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karen Ann Gillingham.



January 29 at 02:44 PM

RN

“ Ritchie & Brenda Nix planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karen Ann Gillingham.

Ritchie & Brenda Nix - January 29 at 11:58 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karen Ann Gillingham.



January 29 at 11:58 AM



“ Devecchio Turner and family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Karen Ann Gillingham.



Devecchio Turner and family - January 28 at 07:26 PM



“ Jerry and Susan Runk purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Karen Ann Gillingham.



Jerry and Susan Runk - January 28 at 12:28 PM



“ Love Wayne and Gale purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Karen Ann Gillingham.



Love Wayne and Gale - January 28 at 10:51 AM

UM

“ Uncle Don and Zoe Mesecher purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Karen Ann Gillingham.



Uncle Don and Zoe Mesecher - January 28 at 10:22 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karen Ann Gillingham.



January 28 at 01:55 AM

GK

“ Gayle Kelly lit a candle in memory of Karen Ann Gillingham



Gayle Kelly - January 27 at 10:18 PM

RG

“ Robby and Gena Gillingham purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Karen Ann Gillingham.



Robby and Gena Gillingham - January 27 at 09:08 PM



“ Roy & Gale planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karen Ann Gillingham.

Roy & Gale - January 27 at 04:23 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Karen Ann Gillingham.



January 27 at 04:23 PM



“ Lisa & Natalie DiPardo planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karen Ann Gillingham.

Lisa & Natalie DiPardo - January 27 at 03:38 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Karen Ann Gillingham.



January 27 at 03:38 PM

RG

“ Dear Little Brother,
We are so sorry for your loss of Karen. Your love for each other was very apparent during your 47 years of marriage. The two of you have traveled all over the world and created so many cherished memories. We, and everyone who knew Karen, have fond memories of so many occasions that we enjoyed with Dan & Karen. Karen was full of fun, laughter, caring, and true friendship. I always considered her my “little sister.” I wish Dan, Lisa & Brad the strength to grieve and heal as time goes on. She will be in our heart for the rest of our lives. Love Roy (BB) & Gale

Roy Gillingham - January 27 at 03:21 PM

PR

I remember when Dan met Karen. It was beautiful. To my cousin Dan and Lisa and Brad... our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Karen was a beautiful woman and loved life. Sending love to y'all.

penny Renfro - January 28 at 10:09 AM

LR

“ Love, Rachel planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karen Ann Gillingham.

Love, Rachel - January 27 at 02:05 PM

LR

“ Love, Rachel purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Karen Ann Gillingham.



Love, Rachel - January 27 at 02:05 PM