



Karen Jeanette Cruz

August 24, 1943 - February 16, 2026

Peacefully, on February 16, 2026, Karen J. Cruz, 82, went home to be reunited with her beloved Don.

Born on August 24, 1943, in Alamosa, CO. Karen was a devoted daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend. Her love was pure and genuine, touching everyone who had the blessing of knowing her. Karen spent most of her life in Alamosa, where she raised her children, worked, enjoyed friends and family, all while by Don's side. After moving to Denver, she found a rewarding role with University of Colorado Boulder, dedicating herself to helping students earn scholarships through specialized programs. In retirement, Karen cherished her time with Don, her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and her beloved dogs. She filled her days with creative crafts, good books, and highly enjoyed time spent in Black Hawk. Karen loved her Ancient Alien time plus any Steven Segal movie. She took great joy in feeding the outdoor critters— especially Charlie the squirrel— and cherished every chance she had to get out with her girls to Hobby Lobby, Burlington, and Olive Garden. She truly enjoyed the simple things in life... time with her loved ones! Whether it be "coffee talk" in the morning, red chili and laughs on a Sunday with Mexican music in the background, it didn't matter, what mattered most was the time spent with her loved ones. Her creativity was one of her many gifts. Whether through her crafts, her painting, or the many projects she joyfully brought to life, she expressed herself with care and imagination. The pieces she created will always reflect her talent, passion, and the deep love

she poured into everything she touched. Made with care and love — they will forever be treasured reminders of her and the joy she brought into our lives. Her loyalty true, heart generous, and her life rich with laughter, dancing and countless beautiful memories. She left a mark on all of us that will never fade. Through her guidance, warmth and sometimes tough love, she helped shape us into the people we are today. We are forever grateful and appreciative for the un-biased love, support and compassion you gave- effortlessly and without question. We only move on knowing she is with Pompo now- eternally- and where he is, is where she belongs. We have comfort knowing she is forever watching over us until the day we meet again. Karen is preceded in death by her parents, John and Stella Ortega; sister, Joan Lopez; daughter, Johnny Cruz and husband of 63 years, Don Cruz. She is survived by her children Jeffrey Cruz, Valorie Warren and Brian Cruz; grandchildren Danielle Cruz, Jason Garvin, Kesley Garvin, Daulton Cruz and Weston Cruz; as well as 6 great-grandchildren, plus countless extended family members and friends. You will be deeply missed but we know we'll see you again, one day! All our love, forever.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

MAR 13. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (MT)

Thrive Church
2720 W. 92nd Ave
Federal Heights, CO 80260

Tribute Wall

PM

“Karen and I worked together at the CU BUENO Center for many years, years filled with love and a lot of laughter. Karen’s family were the most important thing in the world to her and she absolutely had the best stories to share. We spent hours talking, crying, laughing, and just sharing our lives, the good and the bad, and I always knew if I needed a hug, Karen was the person I went to. She was a kindred soul and I will always think of her with a smile, great memories, and lots of love.

Patty McDonald

Patty McDonald - April 27 at 07:15 PM

TM

“I worked with Karen at CU’s BUENO Center for many years- she was a dear friend and co-worker. We will miss her kind heart and compassion for all the students we assisted. She was so generous with her recipes and wonderful food- always bringing food to share at the office. She talked about her beloved family everyday! I will miss my friend so! I hope you’re up there hanging out with Don & all the doggies you took such great care of! Tammy Molinar-LeBlanc

Tammy Molinar-LeBlanc - April 27 at 06:44 PM

JA

“Jamie Vigil & Mark Anderson purchased the Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses for the family of Karen Jeanette Cruz.



Jamie Vigil & Mark Anderson - March 11 at 02:01 PM

JA

“ Jamie Vigil & Mark Anderson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karen Jeanette Cruz.

Jamie Vigil & Mark Anderson - March 11 at 02:01 PM

ML

“ Karen, I treasured my time with you.
You were the best sister in law!
We shared so much through the years
You were always so kind and loving!
You never judged, you accepted me with all
My flaws and loved me no matter what.
You always brought out the best in al of us.
You will be forever in our hearts!
I find comfort knowing you are no longer in pain and you are
rejoicing with your beloved Don.
This isn't goodbye we will meet again I love you Sister!



Marcella Cruz Lucero - March 10 at 08:02 PM