



Karen J. Howard

March 8, 1951 - April 11, 2026

Karen Joyce Stevens Howard of Laurel, was born March 8, 1951. She passed from this life at her home on April 11, 2026, at the age of 75.

Karen was preceded in death by her father Walter Hurley Stevens, mother Billie Joyce Holder Stevens Applewhite, daughter Laurie Dawn Howard Holifield, daughter Jennifer Katherine (Katie) Howard Toombs, and brother Walter Randall (Randy) Stevens.

Karen is survived by her husband of 56 years Michael Clyde Howard, granddaughter Taylor C. Bynum (Auston), granddaughter Harley D. Perdue, grandson Jacob Michael Toombs, and great-granddaughter Braelyn Rayne Bynum.

Karen was born and lived most of her life in Laurel. She attended Powers Elementary School, and then Northeast Jones High School where she was elected Miss NEJ and graduated in 1969.

Mike and Karen were married on May 22, 1970. During the early years of marriage, Karen was a stay-at-home mom to their two girls. She then worked many years with Community Bank. After her retirement, Karen and Mike became full-time caregiver to their grandson Jake. They also cared for their great-granddaughter Braelyn almost every day after school. Karen was active

in church her entire life. She loved the Lord and served in many capacities throughout the years in several churches. She was a member of Mill Creek Church for the past 25 plus years. For many years she played the piano, sang solos, and was a part of the Mill Creek choir and praise team.

Mill Creek Church will host the visitation for Karen on Thursday April 16, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. The celebration of life will begin at 10:30 a.m. Pastor Bill Myers will officiate the service.

Interment will be at Clark Cemetery following the service at Mill Creek.

Pallbearers will be Wayne Howard, Landon Howard, Aaron Howard, Russell Brooks, Kent Holifield, and Auston Bynum. Honorary Pallbearers will be Bobby Stevens and Alan Stevens.

To view or sign the online guest book, visit www.memorychapellaurel.com.

Cemetery Details

Clark Cemetery

Clark Cemetery Rd
Laurel, MS 39443

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 16. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Mill Creek Church
2319 Mill Creek Rd
Laurel, MS 39443

Service

APR 16. 10:30 AM (CT)

Mill Creek Church
2319 Mill Creek Rd
Laurel, MS 39443

Tribute Wall

BM

“ *Bobo Phillips and Roseanna Maxcey sent a virtual gift in memory of Karen Howard*



Bobo Phillips and Roseanna Maxcey - April 27 at 01:25 PM

LF

“ *Karen is such a precious sweet woman . We grew up next door to Karen and her parents . She was always so kind . She played the piano at our church and sang beautifully. She married the love of her life Mike Howard . We the Rose family are so sorry for your loss . We will see her again! Because HE LIVES we can face tomorrow! ... Love you all! Ray Rose, Debbie Rose Pitts, Laura Rose Fitzgerald and Richard Rose.*



Laura Fitzgerald - April 16 at 05:35 PM

DB

“ *My sweet cousin, Karen, was my age, but we shared other things in common as well. Our love of music, especially playing the piano and singing in school and church choirs were a big part of our lives. I was fortunate to attend my freshman year of high school with her, and have many fond memories of that year! Mike, you were a member of choir that year, and I think I know why! Karen had already caught your eye! It's difficult for me to understand why she left us at this age, but I know that she is joyfully singing in the heavenly choirs with no pain or sorrows.*

Dianne Bateman - April 15 at 09:32 PM

AR

“ Praying for the family during this difficult time.
Angela & David Rudolph

Angela Rudolph - April 15 at 02:32 PM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of
Karen J. Howard.



April 15 at 01:40 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Karen J. Howard.

April 15 at 01:40 PM

CJ

“ Charlotte Jackson lit a candle in memory of
Karen Howard



Charlotte Jackson - April 15 at 01:23 AM

RR

“ I am so sorry Mike that you have lost Karen but down the road, your family will be together again. I can't make the visitation and service but I think Laura and Debbie will be there. I am praying that God will wrap his loving arms around you and provide comfort. We love you and God loves you!!

Richard Rose - April 14 at 08:00 PM

DP

“ My heart is so broken over this news! Karen was such a sweet person to all and a dear friend! When we moved to the NEJ area, Karen & her parents were our closest neighbors. They welcomed & loved us like family!
My dad would give Karen her allergy shots. Karen helped me learn my routine to try out for cheerleader! Our parents grew a vegetable garden together! I practiced driving on our joint road! They were our family too!
She & Mike were a special couple that we loved dearly!
Mike, we are praying for you, your family, & Karen's extended family!
We love you all!
Debbie Rose Pitts

Deborah R Pitts - April 14 at 06:15 PM

VH

“ I grew up in Pineview Methodist Church. Karen gave me the love for the piano and singing! Her and Mike loved all of us youth! Praying for comfort, she was such an example of a true Christian!!

Vanessa Hodge - April 14 at 05:55 PM

ES

“ Mike I am so sorry to hear about Karen, she was always so sweet and kind, you and your family are in my prayers.

Erma Strength - April 14 at 12:50 PM

WS

“ I am so so sorry for your loss of Karen. I grew up with her and her Brother. She has always been a bright light and the sweetest friend. Mike, you and the family are in my prayers.

Wanda Lynn Smith - April 13 at 06:58 PM