



# Karen "KJ" Backman-Barrett

OCT 6, 1965 - MAR 13, 2026



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# Karen "KJ" Backman-Barrett

OCT 6, 1965 - MAR 13, 2026

**K**aren "KJ" Backman-Barrett, 60 of Marysville, WA and Culpeper VA was lifted to heaven by the Lord on Friday, March 13, 2026. She was surrounded by her family after a courageous battle with cancer.

Karen is survived by her life partner John, lovely daughter, Alanna Mohr Barrett, her four-legged child, Chippy, her sister, Jeni Ford of Arizona, as well as numerous relatives and friends that will miss her dearly.

Karen was preceded in death by her father Bryce J. Backman Sr. and his wife Lavern, of Arizona, her mother, Phyllis S. Backman, and her sister, Susan Backman Hudgens, of Stanwood WA.

Born October 6, 1965, KJ initially met her "Guy" John in 1992, and reunited in 2001, entrusted her feelings and love with him forever as noted in the song "I Will" by the Beatles. She instilled in Alanna to be independent, the will and desire to work hard, know herself and as a song would say, be the "Best of You" in life. KJ was a "Special Angel" and known for her calm demeanor, intelligence, unwavering strength, adventure, and the ability to organize, especially bringing friends and family together.

In honor of Karen's life, a gathering of remembrance will be held from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm on Sunday, March 22, 2026 at Found and Sons Funeral Chapel, 850 Sperryville Pike, Culpeper, where a service will begin at 2:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, please consider memorial donations in Karen's honor to Hospice of the Piedmont, online at <https://hopva.org/give>, or mailed to: Hospice of the Piedmont, Attn: Development Office 675 Peter Jefferson Parkway, Suite 300 Charlottesville, VA 22911 or to the Karen J. Barrett-Backman In Memorium Bench fund, <https://culpeperschoolsva.schoolcashonline.com/Fee/Details/3129/469/False/True>



# Events

**Karen "KJ" Backman-Barrett**

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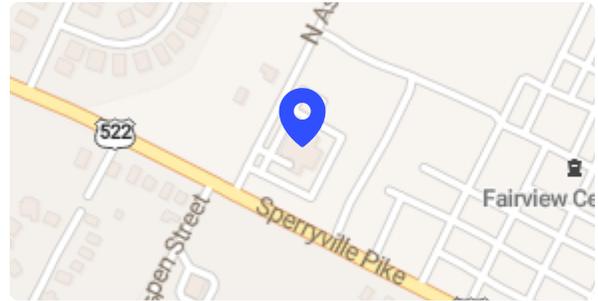
## Gathering

 **Sunday**, March 22, 2026

 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM ET

 **Found and Sons Funeral Chapels & Cremation Service**

850 Sperryville Pike, Culpeper VA 22701



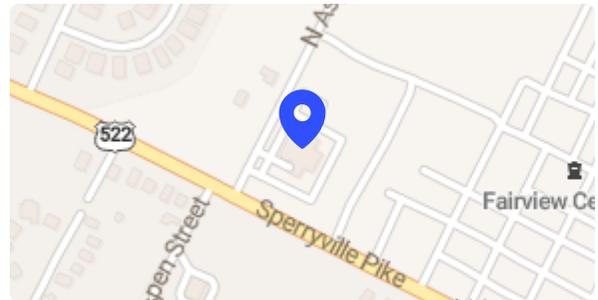
## Memorial Service

 **Sunday**, March 22, 2026

 2:00 PM ET

 **Found and Sons Funeral Chapels & Cremation Service**

850 Sperryville Pike, Culpeper VA 22701





## Tribute Wall

**Karen "KJ" Backman-Barrett**

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A

**April Bocian** shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

I will always cherish the years of memories I shared with Karen. Though life and titles changed over time, the warmth she showed me never did. Looking back at photos of us from my childhood reminds me of her kindness and the way she always made me feel like family. I feel so grateful that we were able to reconnect and spend time together in 2020. It is a memory I will hold close to my heart. My deepest condolences go out to her daughter, her partner, and everyone who loved her. She will be deeply missed.



March 20 at 12:25 PM

JJ

**Jeff Johnson** posted:

In 2014, my wife and I moved to the Culpeper/Orange area. Not to long after, we found this gem of a winery, Old House, where we met Karen. She was vibrant, welcoming and loved not just the Old House wine, but the family behind the wine. Over the years that followed we would see Karen working at Old House during events, her welcoming smile and laughter in her greeting always present. Often, after Old House closed, several would stay afterwards - those who worked that day, along with Pat and Allyson - to laugh, share life and connect. Not many saw this side of weekends at the winery, but the memories are cherished. It was during those moments I remember Karen talking about her health struggles, but she never let it define her. She was strong, she endured, and she lived and loved. She saw the value in a life not given in to inward grief, but chose to be an outward embodiment of love, through kindness. So to her, we will offer this toast...to those who aren't here, never forgotten...we will see you again. Oh - and tell Ron he's still got a seat at the chili judge's table...he's not getting out of it that easy.

March 20 at 7:48 AM



**Kim & Brian Shrader** posted:

Brian and I met Karen and John through the shared love of our daughters and their field hockey team. I enjoyed the times we spent sitting/standing on the stadium bleachers, cheering them on. Karen was a beautiful woman inside and out, with an inviting smile and ability to make anything fun. Her legacy runs strong through her daughter, Alanna, who matches her mother's warmth and authenticity. Rest in peace, Karen. The Shraders

March 19 at 10:53 PM



# Tribute Wall

**Karen "KJ" Backman-Barrett**

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**James M** lit a candle in honor of Karen.

God bless Karen, John, Alanna and all of the Backman-Barrett clan in this time of deep mourning and profound sadness. May He cradle you in his loving arms and provide the comfort and solace that you need to sustain you now and into the future. Love, Jim

March 19 at 7:09 PM



**James Mucciola** sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Backman-Barrett family.

March 19 at 6:03 PM



**Peter MocarSKI** posted:

I met Karen during my tenure with the Culpeper Human Services Board. Karen was one of the managers in our Head Start and Early Head Start programs. She was an absolutely lovely person to all and was very professional and dedicated to working with the program's children. She will be missed by all who knew her! RIP SWEET LADY!!

March 18 at 12:35 PM



**Ann Orange** lit a candle in honor of Karen.

Ms Karen you will truly be missed. I wasn't ready for you to leave. But, that's me being selfish. I Thank God you are not in pain anymore. I Thank God for you being in my life. Always showing me love and respect. I will miss you and John sitting with Andy and I. At Christmas Party. I will miss us calling each other. Just to check in with each other. I send prayers and love to Alana, Sister and John. I pray for God's Continuing strength and comfort for you all.

March 18 at 12:18 PM



**Eric Heltzell** lit a candle in honor of Karen.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. God Bless from the Heltzell's

March 18 at 11:37 AM





## Tribute Wall

**Karen "KJ" Backman-Barrett**

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DC

**Darlene Conover** lit a candle in honor of Karen.

Darlene Conover lit a candle in memory of Karen Backman-Barrett

March 18 at 8:04 AM



DC

**Darlene Conover** lit a candle in honor of Karen.

Go Rest High On That Mountain, Karen. You fought a long battle but now you are at peace. Will forever remember you.

March 18 at 8:04 AM



AM

**Anesa M** posted:

Your personality was like no other. You will be deeply missed Karen. Praying for peace for your family during this time.

March 17 at 10:16 PM

TB

**Tonya Bocian** posted:

I am so sorry for your loss. I am glad Karen was a part of our lives and kept in touch here in Arizona. I have memories of us going camping in Sun Lakes, going to Leavenworth for the Christmas Lighting and having good times at the holidays. Karen will be missed. Tonya Bocian ❤️

March 17 at 10:13 PM

TB

**Tonya Bocian** posted:

I am so sorry for your loss. I am so glad she kept in touch and visited with us here in Arizona. I have fun memories of camping in Sun Lakes, the fun times with the Holidays and going to Leavenworth for the Christmas Lighting. I am glad I knew her and was a part of our lives Karen will be missed. Tonya Bocian ❤️

March 17 at 10:06 PM



## Tribute Wall

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**Dave Amrhein** posted:

I was so sorry see this today. Karen was truly a lovely lady and she loved her family very much. We will pray for Alanna & John who are experiencing terrible pain, sorrow and grief. The Lord bless you and keep you both; The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

March 17 at 8:22 PM



**Tammy Harrison** shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

I am going to miss you so very much

March 17 at 2:55 PM





## Media

**Karen "KJ" Backman-Barrett**

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**April Bocian** shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

March 20 at 12:25 PM



**Tammy Harrison** shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

March 17 at 2:55 PM





# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Karen by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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