



Karen Lynn Barnes

October 10, 1938 - October 19, 2025

KAREN LYNN BARNES

1938 – 2025

Karen Lynn Barnes, born in Seattle to Bill and Marion Dettman in 1938, passed away peacefully in Ephrata, Washington. A graduate of Ballard High School, she spent more than a decade as an educator in the Edmonds School District, where she helped students with special needs to imagine, explore, and excel.

Karen was preceded in death by her husband and “one great love,” Johnny Barnes, and by their daughter Lorrie Michelle, who died at age three — a loss she carried with her always.

Together, Karen and Johnny shared a love of travel — especially to Hawaii, winters in Arizona, and many memorable family trips to Disneyland. She is survived by her sons, Ken and Kevin; five grandchildren; and thirteen great-grandchildren. In 2017 she moved from Lynnwood to Ephrata and lived there independently until the end, with the support of her family.

Christmas was Karen’s season — she planned for it months in advance and brought lots of energy (and high expectations) to her most

favorite holiday — which family members recall as equal parts endurance-test and joyful holiday.

For more than sixty years Karen supported charities including the March of Dimes, St. Jude Children's Hospital, the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center and the American Heart and Lung Associations.

In keeping with her wishes, no formal service will be held; a private family gathering will be held in celebration of her life. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the organizations she supported.

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Small in stature but large in presence, Karen had a gift for planning and a firm opinion on how things ought to go. She will be remembered for her independence, determination, and the kind of strong will that both inspired and tested the mettle of those who loved her. She kept everyone on their toes — and she wouldn't have had it any other way.

Please express your thoughts and memories for the family at www.nicolesfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall

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“ *I was in the navy with our dad. We spent many evenings at your home playing cards and having fun. So sorry for your loss.* ”

Bruce McDonald - October 28, 2025 at 12:52 PM