



Karen Denise LaBranche

October 2, 1962 - September 30, 2025

Claremont - Karen Denise LaBranche, 62, passed away peacefully at Valley Regional Hospital in Claremont, New Hampshire, after a courageous battle with ALS. A devoted mother, loving grandmother, and cherished friend, Karen faced her illness with extraordinary strength, grace, and her signature sense of humor that never wavered.

Born on October 2, 1962, in Lynn, Massachusetts, Karen was the daughter of Joseph and Glenna Appelbe. She grew up in New Hampshire and graduated from Newmarket High School in 1980. Driven by compassion and a deep desire to help others, she went on to earn her nursing degree from the University of New Hampshire, dedicating her life to caring for others as a skilled nurse.

Karen's proudest accomplishments were her daughters, Lindsay LaBranche and Jillian LaBranche. Her joy only multiplied with the arrival of her two grandsons, Brady Croft and Luca Croft, whom she loved fiercely — and humorously. Whether she was teasing, hugging, or embarrassing her loved ones with her jokes, Karen believed that life should always be filled with laughter.

Her love for the outdoors was constant. Whether hiking through trails or simply soaking in nature's beauty, Karen found peace and joy under open

skies or with a Sudoku book.

Karen was predeceased by her beloved brother, Stephen Appelbe, and her mother, Glenna Appelbe. She is survived by her daughters, Lindsay (with Michael Croft) and Jillian; her grandchildren, Brady and Luca; her father, Joseph; and her partner, Greg Eddy. Her family is especially grateful for Greg's unwavering support and the devoted caregivers and medical staff who stood by Karen in her final months.

Calling hours will be held at Remick and Gendron Funeral Home in Hampton, NH, on October 9th from 4 to 6 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to the Robert Packard Center for ALS Research at Johns Hopkins, an organization committed to finding a cure for the disease that took Karen from us far too soon.

Karen's warmth, courage, and relentless humor in the face of adversity will never be forgotten. Her "mom" jokes will remain with us always, reminding us to laugh — even when life gets hard. She would like everyone to know that she now has the smoking hot body she always wanted.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 9. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - Crematory

811 Lafayette Road ·

Hampton, NH 03842

(603) 926-6500

info@remickgendron.com

<https://www.RemickGendron.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ 33 files added to the album Life Tributes



Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - October 08, 2025 at 09:18 AM

PL

“ Truly one of kind. Thank you, Karen for giving us two amazing nieces. -Rick & Phyllis



Phyllis LaBranche - October 06, 2025 at 11:09 AM



“As Karen's boyfriend and soulmate for the last 7 years, I am sad, but when I think of her, I remember her kindness and her respect and consideration for others. She had a ready smile and a readiness to bestow hugs and kisses to share her love. Please take this message to heart, as she did. Let me respectfully remind you. Life and death are of supreme importance. Time swiftly passes by, and opportunity is lost. Each of us should strive to awaken. Awaken. Do no squander your life.”

Gregory Eddy - October 01, 2025 at 10:31 AM

KR

Great thoughts Greg. Karen sounded like a wonderful person.

Kevin Ross - October 03, 2025 at 09:18 PM

RW

“ I have so memories of Karen..she truly was one of my best friends for many years..she later married my brother Randy..and we then grew apart bringing up our children. I missed her so much . I am glad she is out of any pain she had. I will keep my memories close. Lindsay and Jillian try to keep your memories close to you and remember she may be gone and out of pain but she will never be forgott

Robyn Lee Witham - October 01, 2025 at 09:52 AM

MT

*“ Joe, Lindsay and Jillian,
So sorry to hear of your loss. Karen fought her illness bravely and anytime she came to visit Joe, always had a smile and a laugh. Just know we are thinking of all of you during this difficult time.
MaryBeth and Vinnie Tomasi*

MaryBeth Tomasi - October 01, 2025 at 09:02 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Karen Denise LaBranche.



October 01, 2025 at 08:33 AM