



Karen Marie Ralston

AUG 6, 1955 - FEB 11, 2026



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Karen Marie Ralston

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Karen (Chewey) Ralston has passed away at Solaris Rehab (under Cornerstone Hospice), in Tavares, Florida on February 11, 2026 after a long illness.

Born in Neptune, N.J., she lived in Wayside, N.J. until graduating Red Bank Catholic High School in 1973. She went on to graduate Marywood College (now Marywood University) with a degree in Deaf Education. Obtaining a Masters Degree from Gallaudet University, her teaching career spanned over 40 years.

An advocate for the deaf community, her tenure included schools in Newton, Massachusetts, (where she commuted from Cape Cod), Philadelphia, PA, and finally settling in central Florida where she finally retired in The Lakes of Mount Dora Community. Retirement included just enjoying the simple things in life like her furever love, Lexi, and caring for our dad who lived with her until his passing in 2025.

She is predeceased by her husband, Fred Ralston; her parents, Vincent and Denise Chewey; and her granddaughter, Ava Byrne. She is survived by her daughter, Sheila Byrne of North Carolina; a son, Jesse Ralston of North Carolina; two sisters, Cheryl Korbul of Morganville, N.J. and Roberta Amedio of Franklin, Massachusetts; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and multiple nieces and nephews of which she loved hearing stories about.

She will have an immediate cremation after which her remains will be interred with her daughter back in North Carolina. May she find comfort and solace resting in God's hands in her now forever home.



Tribute Wall

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Diane Franceschino posted:

My fondest memory of her dates back to our time working together in Pennsylvania at the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf. Several years later, when I was interviewing for my current position as a Teacher of the Deaf in Lake County, I was pleasantly surprised to see her on the Zoom call alongside two other colleagues. It was truly wonderful to reconnect in that moment, and even more meaningful to have the opportunity to work alongside her again for the next seven years. Karen, you will be truly missed. "Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure."

February 17 at 11:50 AM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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