



## Karen Sparks Masterson Williford

June 17, 1938 - May 20, 2012

Karen was born in Reno, Nevada on June 17, 1938 to Elbert and Adell Sparks of Lovelock, Nevada. She passed away on May 20, 2012, surrounded by her family, in Carson City, Nevada. She was raised in Lovelock, Nevada and graduated from Pershing County High School. She married Ed Masterson and they raised three daughters.

Karen and Ed moved the family to White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia in 1961 where she began working in the business office of the famous Greenbrier Hotel. It was while in West Virginia that Karen's love of bowling, both the actual game and the administrative side, began and grew to become a passion.

The family returned to Carson City, Nevada in 1968. She held numerous local and state bowling association offices from that time, including Secretary and President of both the Capitol City Women's Bowling Association and the Nevada Women's Bowling Association. She was honored at the local and state levels as a Life Member and inducted into the Nevada Women's Bowling Association Hall of Fame in 1999. Karen's love of bowling was passed down to her children and grandchildren.

In addition to loving her family and her animals, Karen loved the San Francisco Giants and always referred to them as "her boys". A highlight of her last few years was attending game five of the San Francisco Giant's World Series games in 2010.

Karen began working for the then named Nevada Department of Highways,

better known as the Highway Department in 1969. She worked for almost 41 years in the Files and Records Management Division, and many of her co-workers have said she knew everything there was to know about the entire Department. She was honored with the Highway Engineer Service Award in 1977, and was given special recognition for 40 years of service with the planting of a tree on the grounds of the Department.

Karen was preceded in death by her parents, Elbert (Sparky) and Adell Sparks and her youngest daughter, Kim Taber Johnson. She is survived by her daughter Debbie Masterson (Bill Shirley), daughter Deanne Wass (Donald); grandchildren Melissa Gates (Dan), Stephanie Munoz (Enrique), Shawn Taber, Justin Wass (Breezi), Amanda Caskey Manzo (Jorge), Rachel Caskey (Cassidy), Meaghan Rhoades (Michael), Nicole Blair (Scott), Morgan Masterson and Trent Masterson; 18 great-grandchildren and one expected in November. She is also survived by her sister Betty Randall of Boise Idaho, and twin brothers Garry Sparks and Ron Sparks (Betty) of Eloy, AZ and numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Karen will be dearly missed by her family and friends. The family wishes to thank Vista Care Hospice for the wonderful care they provided to our Mom/Grandma and support they gave her family.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Karen Sparks Masterson Williford*

November 04, 2023 at 08:25 PM



“ *Karen Sparks Masterson Williford*

November 01, 2023 at 12:58 PM



“ *Karen Williford Was my Grandma. I didn't know her as well as i would of liked to but whenever i did spend any amount of time with her she was always smiling and always gave me a hug when she saw me. My biggest regret has always been that I never got to spend time with her and know her and do the things grandma's do with their grandchildren. But i know one thing is for sure I feel like she is still their and i feel her saing I'm Sorry Too. RIP Grandma Karen, If we meet again someday I'd like to go to a baseball game with you. I'm sure We will have the best seats in the house ;).*

*Love,*

*Your Grandson,*

*Trenton Edward Masterson*

Trenton Edward Masterson - April 09, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *A sympathy card has been sent to the family of Karen Sparks Masterson Williford.*

---

June 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *My heartfelt condolences to Debbie, Deanne and family on the loss of your Mother and Grandmother. My prayers are that she passed peacefully and that you will have many happy memories of your time together with Karen.*

---

**Gerry Perry** - June 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Our sympathy, love and prayers to Karen's entire family. All of you are very special to us and Karen will be missed. Shari Hannah and family*

---

**Shari Hannah** - June 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Karen was a very special friend, we had such great times and memories together. I will treasure her friendship and will always remember her.*

*Love Sue*

---

**Al and Sue Larson** - June 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ Karen was great friend and coworker at NDOT. She taught me a ton about the records section and i didnt even work in there. I would bring in baked goods to work and would always take some to her - and i think she enjoyed them. What a great lady....b

---

**Charlie Cerocke** - June 05, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CD

“ I'm so sorry about your Mom,I know how hard it is right now for you. I remember the fun of bowling with you guys. She will always be a sweet memory.

Carol

---

**Carol Van Dyke** - June 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ I am so sorry, but we will not be able to attend the service for Karen. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Mike and Delinda

---

**Delinda Kinkel** - June 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JO

“ Karen was a wonderful lady and could always make me laugh. I had the priviledge of working under her and NDOT. She gave me a job there in a great time of need for my family and I will forever be grateful to her for that. The day she retired we all cried and gave her a big hug. She is deeply missed. My familys thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.

---

**Julieann Ord** - June 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ Please accept our condolences for your loss. Eleanor and Bob Lawsonyyy

---

**Lawson Family** - June 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ I so appreciate all the time and talent Karen gave to WIBC, the Nevada State Women's Association as well as her local bowling association. Thank you, Karen, for your years of service. It was always good to see you...we would share a joke, a hug and a smile. You will be missed.

*My sympathy to Karen's family.*

*Joyce Paulson...Fallon*

---

**Joyce Paulson** - June 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ Karen was a dear friend who I came to know from our years together at NDOT and our love of the game of baseball and of course the Giants. From our conversations I know how much she loved her family and proud she was of her grand kids. She was a very special lady and my thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends.

---

**Bill Bowman** - June 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ I love you Grandma I know that you are in a better place watching us. I hope that we are making you proud :-)! I am really glad that I had you for my Grandma. You had a great impact on all of our lives, and I'm so happy I got to have the time I had with you. Love you a ton. REST IN PARADISE! Love always Amanda, Caitlynn and McKenah.

---

**Amanda Manzo** - June 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM

EW

“ Karen was a wonderful woman. She took a chance on me and gave me a job with NDOT. I will always be grateful for that. She was encouraging and proud when I excelled with my career. Even when Karen was grumpy I could always make her smile. She will be gratefully missed and I hope she knows how much I loved her and how she impacted my life.

---

**Erin Wilson** - June 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ Grandma, we miss you and love you very much. Thank you for always being there for us and for being the best Grandma and Great-Grandma ever.

*Melissa, Dan, Christopher, and Savannah*

---

**Melissa Gates** - June 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AN

“ So sorry to hear of your mom's recent passing. She will rest in peace, and no more pain.

*With sincere sympathy,*

*Alice, Betty's sister*

---

**Alice Paris Norcutt** - June 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ So sorry about the loss of your beloved mother/grandmother. Karen was a neat lady, I worked with her at NDOT.

---

**Jim Pierce** - June 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PM

“ Karen was a dear friend to my Mom, Ann Glodowski, for the many years they worked together at DOT. Karen was always kind, funny, and loving. I lost Mom last May. The world is a bit less bright without the two of them in it. My prayers are with you.

---

**Peggy (Glodowski) Manes** - June 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

NF

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. It's really hard to lose a parent. My prayers are with you, Debbie, and your family. Nikki

---

**Nikki Firpo** - June 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ What a neat lady Karen was! My sympathies to this wonderful family...she will be missed.

---

**Brandi Cadenhead** - May 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ *I love & miss you Grandma.*

---

**Rachel Caskey** - May 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ *Grandma we love you and miss you very much. We know that you are in a better place and you are with the rest of the family that has passed on.*

*Love always,*

*Stephanie, Enrique, Taylor, Alex, Andrea, and Bryce.*

---

**Stephanie Munoz** - May 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM