



Carolyn A. Kowalik

September 5, 1955 - January 19, 2025

Carolyn A. (Vance) Kowalik, 69, of Rapid City, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, January 19, 2025, at Munson Medical Center. Born on September 5, 1955, to the late Donald and Gloria Vance, Carolyn was raised in Rapid City alongside her six siblings. She graduated from Kalkaska High School in 1974 and later worked as a 911 dispatcher for the state of Michigan, a job she truly enjoyed. Carolyn met the love of her life, Robert Kowalik, and they married on June 22, 1985. They shared a passion for travel and boating, always welcoming family—especially nieces and nephews—on their adventures. A talented crocheter, Carolyn lovingly made afghans for family and friends. She loved watching sports, both in person and on TV. The Red Wings were her favorite team, and she also enjoyed cheering for the Detroit Tigers, Lions, and Michigan football. Following Robert's passing in February 2017, Carolyn retired from the state of Michigan. She had a kind and loving spirit, touching the hearts of everyone she met with her warmth and smile.

Carolyn, Your kindness continues to ripple through our lives. You made this world a better place with your kindness and soft heart. I sit and wonder every day why the Lord chose to call you away. I think he saw you needed a rest. He only takes the very best

A private burial for the immediate family will be held this summer.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Cemetery Details

Clearwater Township Cemetery

6833 Gillett Road NW
Rapid City, MI 49676

Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall

TS

“ I worked with Carolyn at MSP for many years. She was such an upbeat, happy person. Her smile lit up her whole face. I especially miss her laugh. It was the best and you couldn't help but laugh with her. In fact, sometimes she would laugh so hard that her face would get red and we'd all be telling her to, "Breathe , breathe!"

You will be missed, T-Rex!!

Tammi Sherfield - January 31, 2025 at 07:42 PM

MP

“ I met Carolyn through the Traverse Area Camera Club where we both served on the Board. She was a credit to our Club and brought her gifts to the Board.

My condolences to her loved ones in your time of great loss. Rest in Peace Carolyn.

Mary Pecar - January 30, 2025 at 10:20 PM

BE

“ I will miss Carolyn so much. I had so many great memories with her. The times we took her motor home down to florida. I remember going to see the movie dirty dancing and we immedialy had to go out dancing lol she always had that big smile on her face kindness in her heart. Love you Carolyn you are missed.



Barbara English - January 22, 2025 at 12:06 PM

CL

“ Carolyn was my training officer as a Michigan State Police Emergency Dispatcher. Carolyn was the sweetest most positive person. She had the most wonderful easy going way about her. Her laugh was infectious. She was my friend. She had such a positive impact on my life and I will miss her immensely



Corinne Lapierre - January 22, 2025 at 08:50 AM

TG

“ Carolina, there r those people in our lives that we may go awhile before we talk, but when we do, it's as if no time has passed because of the comfort, acceptance and love our friendship had. You,my friend were that person for me and I am grateful for the memories I have. I will miss that wonderful laugh and I will miss you.
Tammy Grange

Tammy Grange - January 22, 2025 at 08:27 AM

WM

“ I am so very sorry to hear of Carolyn's passing. When I first started to work at MSP 2nd District Dispatch she was one of my co-workers. She was a competent dispatcher and a pleasure to work with. Gone way too young. May she rest in peace. Prayers and healing thoughts for her family.

*Wanda Mroz
MSP Detroit Regional Communication 1999-2017, retired*

Wanda Mroz - January 21, 2025 at 09:49 PM

PG

“ I was so sad to hear about Carolyn. I remember all the fun times we had together growing up, from attending Girl Scouts and doing the Mackinaw Bridge Walks, our special road trips, to doing crafts and taking up photography and attending ball games together. I'm thinking of you all during this difficult time. Carolyn was such a special person and will be deeply missed.”



Patty and Mike Green - January 21, 2025 at 02:16 PM