



Karen Eileen Jones

April 28, 1948 - January 17, 2026

Karen E. Jones, 78, treasured daughter, wife, educator, servant leader, and cherished friend, passed away peacefully after a courageous and lengthy battle with Parkinson's disease. She leaves behind a legacy of faith, discipline, compassion, and an unwavering devotion to the lives she touched. Karen was born in Dubois, Pennsylvania, to the late Charles and Doris Hovey, who instilled in her the values of hard work, service, and integrity that would guide her throughout her life.

She pursued her passion for education by earning a Bachelor of Arts in Physical Education, after which she began her distinguished career with the New York City Board of Education. There, she served as a Physical Education teacher and coach, inspiring young women through girls' gymnastics and cheerleading. Her commitment to excellence in both academics and character development led her to earn two Master's degrees. One in Physical Education and the other in Administration and Supervision, which culminated in her role as a Junior High School Administrator.

It was during her years in education that Karen found the love of her life, Ralph Jones. Their partnership was one of deep respect, joy, and unwavering devotion.

Karen was widely known for her remarkable discipline paired with a deeply caring spirit. She led with both strength and grace, always encouraging others to believe in themselves and strive for more.

After retiring from the New York City School System, Karen and Ralph moved

to Myrtle Beach, where they found their forever home—and Karen found her forever happy place, the beach. There, she continued her lifelong commitment to fitness, service, and faith as a devoted Christian and servant leader within her church community. She also treasured the many social gatherings shared with her longtime friends, whose companionship brought her great joy. Even in her later years, Karen never stopped nurturing young minds, offering wisdom, encouragement, and love to all who crossed her path. She was truly a bright light—one whose presence uplifted every room and every heart she touched.

Karen is survived by her loving and devoted husband, Ralph Jones; daughter Cherrie Davis. She is also remembered by Amanda (Bryan) Simmons, the daughter of her beloved husband; her grandchildren (2) and great-grandchild; her nephews, Ben Hovey and Derek (Michelle) Hovey; her cousin, Corey (Vicky) Jacobs; and a host of extended family members and friends who will forever cherish her memory.

Acknowledgment

The family of Karen E. Jones sincerely thanks you for your prayers, love, and support during this time of bereavement. Special acknowledgement is extended to Paula Gillis, Lisa Shy, Vicky Jacobs, and Andy Gray. Your presence and kindness are deeply appreciated and will forever be remembered.

Closing Thought

“Well done, good and faithful servant.”

— Matthew 25:23

Karen's funeral ceremony may be viewed at: <https://vimeo.com/event/567960>

2

Funeral Services Entrusted To:

Goldfinch Beach Chapel

11528 Hwy 17 Byp, Murrells Inlet, SC 29576

(843) 651-3295

www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com

To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of Karen Eileen Jones please visit our Sympathy Store.

Cemetery Details

Hillcrest Cemetery

1000 Hwy 544
Conway, SC 29526
(843) 347-4909
office@hillcrestcemetery.com
<https://www.hillcrestcemetery.com/>

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JAN 23. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Goldfinch Funeral Home Beach Chapel
11528 Highway 17 Bypass
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576
(843) 651-3295
info@goldfinchfuneralhome.com
<https://www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com>

Burial

JAN 23. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Hillcrest Cemetery
1000 Hwy 544
Conway, SC 29526
(843) 347-4909
office@hillcrestcemetery.com
<https://www.hillcrestcemetery.com/>