



Carolyn S. Rogers

September 12, 2021

Carolyn S. Rogers (nee Schermerhorn) was a beloved wife, mother and lover of education, who lived a life of service to others. Born in Syracuse, NY on October 8, 1933 to Porter J. Schermerhorn and Helen May Shermerhorn (Bolsom) she entered into the church triumphant on September 12, 2021, after a brief illness.

Carolyn began her career as the administrative assistant to Principal Karl Saile, at Karl W. Saile Bear Road Elementary School in 1964. She had a genuine passion for education and went above and beyond for the teachers and the students at her school. She was the heart and soul of that school and was an inspiration to all who knew her.

In 1970 she was hired as the administrative assistant to the Superintendent of the North Syracuse Central School District, applying her high level of administrative and organizational skills, and her passion for education to the entire school district. She completed her career by serving as a guidance counselor secretary at North Syracuse High School, retiring in 1992. She also served as an officer for the New York Association of Educational Secretaries for over a decade.

Carolyn was devoted to her husband David. Married 55 years, they shared a love of service to others, while enjoying camping, hiking and traveling, and spending time in their beloved “home away from home” in Little River, South Carolina. She was tireless in her support of her husband’s career as an elementary music teacher, sharing his love of music and inspiring children.

She loved her children unconditionally and family was always her priority. She encouraged her children in Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts (even teaching numerous merit badges!), church youth group, and attended every high school musical and concert her three musical children participated in. A pianist and vocal musician herself, family sing-alongs were a routine and joyous event. She planned incredible trips and outings for her family, including camping, hiking, and cross country trips in the US and Canada. She loved board games and game nights are a wonderful family tradition she passed on to her children. Faith in God was paramount in her life and she was very active in living her faith, very involved with her beloved church, Pitcher Hill Community Church, chairing the Worship and Music Committee, serving on the finance committee and singing in the choir for decades. She led and participated in “The Wednesday Group,” a bible study and support activity for women. She and her husband donated the funds for new choir robes and participated annually in the Fowler Fair fundraiser and the Community Roast Beef Dinners.

Following her retirement, she became even more active in her faith walk, serving as an elder delegate and as the president of The Reformed Church of America Classis of Montgomery.

Throughout her life, she continued to make her children and grandchildren a priority, traveling all over the country and even to Germany to spend time with them and encourage them in their educational and career pursuits. She never missed an opportunity to brag about her children, as she was so proud of her son, Mike, for his well-honed IT skills, her daughter Debi for her successful Army and defense contracting career, and her daughter Kate for her incredible work in psychotherapy and her PhD. She loved to “facetime” her grandchildren to keep up with their lives as well, and never tired of telling them how proud she was of each of them!

Carolyn is survived by her husband of 55 years, David M. Rogers and her real legacy, her children, Michael Rogers, Deborah Godwin (Matthew A. McHale), and Kate Messina (Lester Wielstein); her ten grandchildren, Derek and Scott Rogers, Daniel Godwin (Morgan Godwin), Michaela Adams (Christopher

Adams) and Katie Rosa (Augustus Rosa), Adam McHale, Patrick McHale, and Christopher McHale (Jennifer McHale), Carly Wielstein (Nikhil Shukla), and Chelsea Koptke (Erik Koptke), her brother, Porter J. Schermerhorn, Jr.; and her 10 great-grandchildren. She is pre-deceased by her parents, Porter J. and Helen M. Schermerhorn.

The family anticipates a private committal service at a later date. However, the family wishes to thank all of those who cared for her during her last days, especially the doctors and nurses of Upstate Medical Center (Onondaga Hill Campus), her exceptional case manager, MaryBeth Davis, and the incredible support provided by her 24 hour home care nurses!

The dash between Carolyn's birth and death stands for a lifetime of service. "Well done good and faithful servant. Come and share your master's happiness!" (Matthew 25:23)

Rest in peace beloved wife, mother, and friend.

A joint memorial service for David and Carolyn will be held on June 3, 2025, at 2 PM at Pitcher Hill Community Church in North Syracuse, New York. A private interment will take place at Prospect Hill Cemetery in Albany, New York.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JUN 3. 2:00 PM (ET)

Pitcher Hill Community Church
605 Bailey Road
North Syracuse, NY 13212

Tribute Wall



“ *Fergerson Funeral Home created a Funeral Service in memory of Carolyn S. Rogers*



Fergerson Funeral Home - June 03, 2025 at 01:39 PM



“ *Carolyn S. Rogers*

October 06, 2023 at 10:42 AM



“ *Dear Grandma,
Thank you for being the first one to welcome me into the world.
Throughout the years, I've always appreciated the way you cared
and accepted all of us. Your loving kindness will always be
remembered.*

Patrick McHale - September 19, 2021 at 12:05 AM



“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



Michaela - September 18, 2021 at 09:40 PM

MI

“ Dear Grandma,

Oh how you epitomized encouragement...always a forever fan to so many...you saw the light and shouted it out! Always, I have felt love and support from you...no matter where I was along my path. I treasure our special chats in Sacramento as I was embarking into young adulthood...beginning teaching, venturing into marriage, and then motherhood. I carry with me, your insights, your compassion, and your unwavering love. I miss you.

I think so fondly too of how you kept so many little traditions alive... the special box for Chris and I, our stunning champagne glasses...I know you took so much care in ensuring it was all just suited for us. You celebrated me...and so many others too! What a gift you have been!

You continue to be an example to me of loving first, and extending compassion and understanding. I am so grateful that you were my grandma and that I was a recipient of so much love...thank you so...

I love you all the time, and may you be in peace...

*Love,
Michaela*

Michaela - September 18, 2021 at 09:38 PM

SC

“ *Debbie and family,*

I remember your mom from the North Syracuse School District. She knew my mom (Dorothy Wells) from the Secretary's group. Such a pleasure to know her. Also your mom and dad did a cassette tape of my wedding back in 1978. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers at this most difficult time.

Susan Cleland (formerly Wells)

Susan Cleland - September 18, 2021 at 01:09 PM

KA

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Katie - September 17, 2021 at 07:19 PM

KA

“ Grandma!

I love you so much and will miss you terribly. Your voice is something I will miss most, but I know I will hear it in my heart and soul, telling wonderful stories, cheering me on, and encouraging my dreams.



You were a bright light in my world and were always there to listen, laugh, and support your family. How lucky was I to have a grandmother like you who made me feel loved, cherished, and supported? I admire your strength of character, kindness, easy-going nature, and willingness to help out always. I also loved watching you and grandpa dance!

I will never forget that trip across the country when I was little—such a fun, memorable event that will stay with me forever! Here's a picture that sits on my bookshelf of you and Jocelyn together. You remember that reunion, when we were at Kate and Les'? It meant so much to me that you got to spend some time with her.

Until we meet again...

Katie

Katie - September 17, 2021 at 07:18 PM

CK

“ Some of my favorite moments with a Grandma was when she and Grandpa would come to Ohio for The Ohio Star Ball. It was always so special and so meaningful to see her smiling face in the audience while we performed. Grandma always wore a special pair of good luck earrings for me on those evenings... And, I'd like to think the magic in them helped us dance our best.

We always held hands when we walked through the big convention center where the competition was held, and that always felt sacred and special to me. Her hands, which created my mother's hands, which created my hands... 3 generations walking together.

We will miss you Grandma... Thank you for your love. Rest with peace, contentment, and love.

Chelsea~



Chelsea Farrah Koptke - September 16, 2021 at 06:57 PM

CW

“ This is one of my favorite memories of Grandma! This was from 2014 while I was on the Broadway National tour of Mamma Mia! We were playing in Elmira, upstate New York, and grandma and grandpa drove down with mom to see me perform! After the performance grandma and grandpa were right there at the stage door all smiles and cheers! We had a wonderful night celebrating the performance and they even posed like characters from the show!



carly wielstein - September 16, 2021 at 11:16 AM