



Karen Amy Cotton

January 7, 2026

Karen Amy Cotton, 62, of Lancaster, PA, went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, January 7, 2026. Born in Lancaster, PA, she was the beloved daughter of the late Samuel Cotton and Helen Ruth (Jordan) Cotton.

Karen was a proud graduate of J.P. McCaskey High School, where her remarkable athletic talent earned her a place in the school's Hall of Fame for track and field. A trailblazer in her time, she was among the first young women to train at the high school level while still in middle school, paving the way for others to follow.

Her passion for athletics extended far beyond her own accomplishments. Karen founded the Barney Ewell Track Team, which proudly earned a spot at the national level. She was deeply devoted to the children she mentored, creating a safe, supportive, and encouraging environment that helped keep them off the streets while nurturing their skills, confidence, and potential. She was highlighted in multiple occasions in the Lancaster Newspaper for this accomplishment.

Karen's faith was an important part of her life. She was a faithful member of Bright Side Baptist Church, where she regularly attended Sunday School and volunteered at the Welcome Center to warmly welcome guests. She was also part of Bright Side's Mime Ministries for years. Throughout her working years,

Karen was employed in the retail industry in the Lancaster area, serving in various roles, including customer relations and cashier positions.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to DaVita Dialysis and LGH Hypertension and Kidney Specialists for the compassionate and dedicated care shown to Karen throughout her life.

Karen is survived by her loving sisters, Jacqueline (John) Unrein, Diana L. King, Pamela Winder, and Robin Woodard; her brothers, Spencer (Saude) Jordan, Robert (Lisha) Anderson, John Cotton, and Bennett Cotton; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and beloved Godchildren. In addition to her parents, Karen was preceded in death by her son, Stetson Cotton; three siblings, Larry Jordan, Joyce Anderson, and Brian Cotton; and her aunts and uncles.

A Funeral Service will be held at Bright Side Baptist Church, 515 Hershey Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17603, on Thursday, January 15, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. Pastor John A. Knight officiating and The Rev. Dr. Louis A. Butcher, Jr. preaching the eulogy. A Viewing will be held from 10:00 a.m. until the time of service. Interment will follow at Mellinger Mennonite Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Mellinger Mennonite Cemetery

Lincoln Hwy East
Greenfield Road
Lancaster, PA

Previous Events

Viewing

JAN 15. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Bright Side Baptist Church
515 Hershey Avenue
Lancaster, PA 17603

Funeral Service

JAN 15. 11:00 AM (ET)

Bright Side Baptist Church
515 Hershey Avenue
Lancaster, PA 17603

Graveside

JAN 15 (ET)

Mellinger Mennonite Cemetery
Lincoln Hwy East
Greenfield Road
Lancaster, PA

Tribute Wall

JW

“ Karen was a star of our neighborhood. Her track skills were outstanding. Sending love and blessings from The Charles E Williams Family (Pidge)

Jenny Williams Wilson - January 17 at 06:26 PM

VA

“ my deepest condolences

valerie - January 13 at 04:52 PM

HM

“ Sending my sincere condolences to the family keeping you all in prayer may she rest in peace

Helen Morant - January 13 at 09:42 AM

EB

“ Sending prayers, condolences n love to Robin's family members from Mary/Bonnie/Aaron/Papa Boots regarding your love one passing Karen. My mom shared a story about your mom Helen being a outstanding athlete n track star when they went to school together. It appears Karen got her track gift from her mom. I had the opportunity to work with Karen when she was a part of the LETA summer employment program for students. Karen was one my Junior summer camp counselors when I was the head Boys camp counselor boys/girls club Camp Snyder. I enjoyed working with her n she did a good job.

Earl Papa Boots - January 11 at 03:44 PM

A(

“ *Aldine Owens (Beaner) lit a candle in memory of Karen Amy Cotton*



Aldine Owens (Beaner) - January 10 at 03:32 PM

RW

“ *Karen, Such a Dear, Sweet Caring Person, Full Of Confidence and Love. I Imagine you singing as you're Walking the Gold Paved streets of Heaven.*
Rich White JPM'80

Rich White - January 09 at 07:38 AM

ED

“ *I am going to miss you Karen my condolences to the family ericka Selby darcus*

Ericka darcus - January 08 at 10:02 PM

AS

“ *Alycia Jordan Smalls purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Karen Amy Cotton.*



Alycia Jordan Smalls - January 08 at 04:51 PM

JC

“ *Also my heart and prayers go out to her family and friends* □

Joy Cosme - January 08 at 03:19 PM

BT

“ My condolences to the family. I knew Karen for many years. And I also had the privilege of taking her to Davita, (red rose) Karen shared funny stories about her brother Spencer and she had me laughing the whole time. She was always pleasant unless someone made her mad, and one thing about Karen she always spoke her mind no matter what.. 😊 I will miss her smile. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.



Betty Turner - January 08 at 03:17 PM

CW

RIP Karen, no more suffering, you are at rest. My Condolences to the family. 🙏

Carmen Wright - January 08 at 07:12 PM

NM

KAREN WAS ONE OF THE FIRST PEOPLE I MET HERE IN LANCASTER WE BOTH LIVED ON EASTEND AVENUE. I'M SAD TO HEAR OF HER BIRTHDAY. SENDING PRAYERS AND STRENGTH TO THE FAMILY.

Noemi Matos - January 13 at 09:53 PM

JC

“ I met her in Dial Apts where we both lived. She was very friendly. She would call me regularly to see how iam doing cause she knew I had back issues. We lived on the same floor and would visit each other at times. I know she loved purple and bought her a purple vase for her window and it made her so so happy. I loved to see her smile and happy. I will miss her but lije the Bible says I'll be looking for her in the resurrection. Sleep well my sweet friend till I see you again 💕

Joy Cosme - January 08 at 03:17 PM