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Karen Lorraine Fazan of Somerville, NJ passed away peacefully with her family by her side on February 5, 2023. She was 70 years old. Karen married the love of her life on June 27, 1982 and soon after brought into this world her greatest joy, her children. She was an incredibly loving mother, wife and grandmother. Her radiating smile, welcoming arms, and gift of laughter can never be replaced. Karen was dedicated to her career in mental health for over 40 years, and more importantly the children, patients and colleagues that she cared so deeply about. No matter how stressful aspects of her job were, she could never bring herself to retire, as the ability to help others was a guiding force in her life.

Karen was most devoted to her family, and would always place their needs and happiness before her own. Continuing her love to assist others, she was a leader of the 4-H Pins & Needles club where she helped spread the passion of sewing to those under her guidance. Prior to 4-H, she was immensely involved with her daughter's Girl Scout pack, and her son’s Boy Scout troop. Karen was also a lover of all thing’s nature, and enjoyed time at the beach, skiing in the mountains, and admiring her beloved red maple tree in her backyard. One of her most fond recurring memories was Sunday dinners with her family. Despite all that she had going on, she always found time to cook, sit with her family, and enjoy their presence and laughter. We don’t know where she found the time and energy, but she always did it with a smile.

While Karen always looked forward to dinner each week, what brought the biggest smile to her face was seeing her young granddaughter, Aveline, grow. She loves that child so much, and the love was always reciprocated. There was nothing that she enjoyed more than spending time with her, giving her hugs, kisses and teaching her how to become an amazing woman.

Karen always had the ability to identify positivity in even the bleakest situations. She is looking down on us today smiling, knowing how much joy she brought into the world, and that she left it a better place. If each of us could be a fraction of the person that Karen was, the world would be an incredible place.

Karen was predeceased by her parents Helen and Edward Sleph. She is survived by her husband of over 40 years, George P. Fazan Jr, her son George M. Fazan, her daughter Amy Versace and husband Scott, her granddaughter Aveline Versace, her older brother Thomas Sleph, and her younger brother Paul Sleph and his wife Holly.

Prayers will be 8am Saturday at Bruce C. VanArsdale Funeral Home, 111 N. Gaston Ave, Somerville followed by a 9am mass at Immaculate Conception Church, 35 Mountain Ave, Somerville. Interment will follow at St. Bernard Cemetery in Bridgewater.

Visitation will be 2-4pm and 7-9pm Friday at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, dedicated donations in Karen’s honor may be made to St. Jude Children’s Hospital. Donations can be made online, or via mail. Detailed information can be found at https://www.stjude.org/ followed by clicking “Donate Now.” To send condolences to the family, please visit brucecvanarsdalefuneralhome.com.