



## Karen R Setti

September 12, 1944 - August 21, 2023

Karen Rita Corbett Setti passed away at home on August 21, 2023 after a long and fierce battle with multiple myeloma. She is joining her husband of 57 years, Richard Neal Setti, who passed of Covid 19 in April 2020. She is survived by her son Craig (co-parent Bernarda), her daughter Lara (Chris), and son Jason (Maria). She also leaves behind her 5 beloved grandchildren, Gabriella, Liam, Dylan, Naima, and Rebekah. In addition, she is survived by her elder brother Denis, as well as cousins Joanna and Lorraine.

Karen was, quite simply, a force of nature. Her tiny body, topped with red hair and adorned with freckles, belied her enormous presence.

Karen was born in Jersey City to Muriel and Thomas Corbett on September 12, 1944. Raised in an Irish Catholic community, she was a student of the telling of tales from a young age. She drew on this experience throughout her life, weaving lore into her parenting, friendships, nursing career and care of her patients.

Karen met her husband Richard at a Sweet 16 party in 1960 in their hometown of Jersey City. After Richard enrolled in a Jesuit seminary, Karen went on to nursing school at Holy Name Hospital in Teaneck, NJ. Some years later, after Richard left the seminary, they married and started their family in the Bronx.

Karen and Richard soon relocated to Teaneck, NJ to raise their family together in a community which shared the values of religious, cultural, racial and social diversity they held up for their children. Leading by example, Karen was always an upstander, not a bystander, whenever she witnessed mistreatment of others. Love and equity were guiding forces in her life.

From the start of her career, Karen was enamored of intensive and critical care nursing, working briefly in new ICUs at both Christ and Jacobi Hospitals. She went on to a remarkable career at what is now Hackensack University Medical Center for 49 years.

Always propelled by a love of learning and quest for knowledge, Karen enrolled in night classes for her BSN at Fairleigh Dickinson University for 13 years while working full time and raising a family. During this time, she worked as a staff nurse in the Medical ICU and CCU, a nurse educator, and ICU head nurse. It became evident to Karen that she did not find the fulfillment in her administrative role that she did in her clinical one, and was anxious to return full time to the bedside. Towards this end, Karen went on to study at the University of Pennsylvania (while still working full time in the MICU!) and became a clinical nurse specialist. She subsequently became the first nurse practitioner in Hackensack University Medical Center history. As was her nature, she always wanted to learn more, do more, teach more and she often went to work early to learn procedures she would use in the ICU. Her never waning dedication to the advancement and practice of nursing lives on in those she taught, cared for and inspired.

Karen was dedicated to her family and found joy in creating beauty in her home and garden, alongside her husband Richard. Surrounding themselves with plants, trees and birds in the oasis they created at home renewed her soul after long and weary days at work. They loved traveling and finding

beautiful antiques, the perfect new perennial plant or glorious bulbs for the yard.

Karen's passion for living was inspirational. Yet her greatest joy was found in the company of family. Large holiday gatherings or vacations, trips and adventures, or simply sharing a meal in her backyard. Her soul was fed by the stories and successes of those she loved and her ardent and unwavering support carried many of us through challenging times.

Karen lived her life with the simple guiding principles of love, learning, sharing knowledge and paying it forward. We will miss her terribly and will strive to carry her love for forever and a day.

Please join us for a Celebration of Life at the Volk Leber Funeral Home in Teaneck, NJ on Sunday, September 10, 2023 from 11 am-1 pm. Repast will follow at Karen's home, in her gardens, at 304 Morningside Terrace, also in Teaneck.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Hackensack University Medical Center Foundation in support of a newly funded Karen Setti Memorial Scholarship. Any size donation is welcome to support Karen's incredible legacy of nursing care and education. Checks can be made payable to "HUMC Foundation" at 343 Thornall Street, 7th Floor Edison, NJ 08837. Please put Karen Setti on the memo, or give online at [give.hackensackmeridianhealth.org/goto/KarenSetti](https://give.hackensackmeridianhealth.org/goto/KarenSetti)

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

SEP **10**. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Volk Leber Funeral Home  
789 Teaneck Road  
Teaneck, NJ 07666  
info@volkleber.com  
<http://www.volkleber.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Volk Leber Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Karen R Setti*



**Volk Leber Funeral Home** - September 10, 2023 at 10:22 AM



“ *Karen R Setti*

October 08, 2023 at 09:59 PM



“ *Karen R Setti*

October 08, 2023 at 06:27 PM



“ *I have been an RN at HUMC for 42 years and remember my orientation (when we had every course at orientation). I remember being floored by her amazing intelligence as well as her sense of humor. Over the years, I would cross paths with her and found her even smarter and funnier with each encounter. Certainly an asset to HUMC and nursing. She will be missed.*

**Elizabeth Schneider** - September 11, 2023 at 08:37 AM

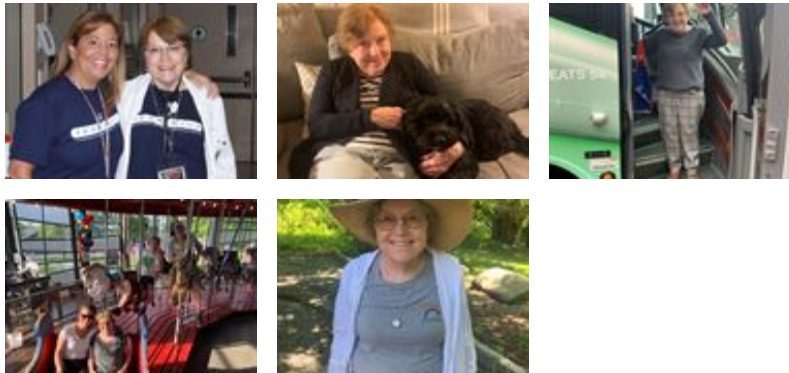
DP

“ Karen was & will remain the legend of HUMC. I'll never forget the impression she made on me as a new nurse grad in 1987. She was brilliant, fun, tough and the perfect example of the nurse I strived to become. She once told me to “stay ahead” meant to read medical & nursing journals as soon as they came off the press! My family will attest that I've been doing this since 1987, & continue to do so. I got to know Karen personally when I cared for Richard's mom in their Teaneck home. She never missed a beat...at home or within her nursing career. Karen's work ethic, wisdom & lively spirit will remain forever in my heart. Rest in Peace & Love, Karen. ❤️

Donna Puleo - September 10, 2023 at 11:39 AM



“ 133 files added to the album LifeTributes



Volk Leber Funeral Home - September 10, 2023 at 10:16 AM

FG

“ I am privileged, honored and blessed to have met this beautiful and unbelievably wonderful lady! The minute we met, I knew we would be life long friends. Unfortunately, God called her home way too soon. I had so much more to share with her and learn from her. I guess I will just have to wait until we meet again. Karen I will miss you dearly and thank you so much for being my friend... My deepest sympathy to your beloved family. May you RIP my friend.. 💔

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**Fran Gordon** - September 08, 2023 at 09:37 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Karen R Setti.



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September 08, 2023 at 08:23 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Karen R Setti.

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September 08, 2023 at 08:23 PM

DC

“ I was surely blessed to become a critical care colleague of Karen Setti. She took me by the hand to lead me in her trajectory of Advanced Practice Nursing. We shared a Graduate School Experience in Critical Care Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania. Karen's horizon never saw closure, She was always searching for something on the other side. I would get a phone call or text telling me: Hey Diane, I have an idea of how we can improve.....  
My sincere condolences to her family.  
Diane Cheer



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**Diane Cheer** - September 08, 2023 at 11:54 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Karen R Setti.

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September 08, 2023 at 08:56 AM

JM

“ I don't believe that there was a ever nurse for whom I had more respect and admiration than Karen. To describe her as “a force of nature” is an understatement. She will be deeply missed by all who had the good fortune to know her as a friend and colleague.  
Sincerest condolences to her family.

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**John Griffin MD** - September 08, 2023 at 08:52 AM

MK

“ Mary Kelly lit a candle in memory of Karen Setti



Mary Kelly - September 08, 2023 at 05:17 AM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Karen R Setti.



September 07, 2023 at 01:35 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Karen R Setti.

September 07, 2023 at 01:35 PM

RS

“ Robert S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karen R Setti.

Robert S. - September 07, 2023 at 01:06 PM

JR

“Karen was simply one of the best, one of the greats! She was brilliant and without ego. She taught us with humor, wisdom & compassion and made us feel safe and secure while we learned from the master! I'm sure a collective tear and sigh of sadness reverberated among the legions of nurses on August 21st, who were privileged to have worked and learned from Karen!

*I can still remember our Telemetry/EKG class with Karen teaching us about the Axis of the heart via a kaleidoscope of movement with her arms. We were mesmerized as this pint size dynamo explained the concepts. And we GOT IT! We learned and remembered!*

*With love, Janet Regan-Livingston*

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**Janet Regan-Livingston** - September 07, 2023 at 12:22 PM

LC

“Karen you were such an inspiration and legacy. It was a privilege to have you as my head nurse in MICU for many years. You taught us so much. You were one of the 2 best Head Nurses in my career. Thank you for all your love and support. RIP my nurse and choir friend. God Bless You Always 🙏

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**Linda Corigliano** - September 06, 2023 at 09:43 PM

KL

“ Karen was an inspiration to me as a young nurse in 1987. She continued to be a positive influence and energy in my entire 35 year career at HUMC.

*Karen was smart, professional, tough, funny and kind. If you worked at HUMC you knew Karen. God bless you Karen. May you rest in peace. Thank You.*

*My sympathy and condolence to family. May you all find comfort in her memory and her strength.*

*Kathy Laico*

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**Kathy Laico** - September 06, 2023 at 07:44 PM

DS

“ Karen you were the BEST clinical nurse specialist I ever worked with! You were an excellent teacher and could manage any ICU emergency with ease. What a loss to the nursing community. You were an inspiration

*You will be missed*

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**denise santo** - September 06, 2023 at 02:33 PM

JH

“ Karen had the ability to share stories when teaching that often made us laugh but, remember what we were learning. I thought of her often when I taught later in my career. Her teaching style was amazing. I knew her from when I was a Nursing Assistant and I have been a nurse since 1986. She was an amazing person. God bless. I am praying for the whole family. Judy Howes

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**Judy Howes** - September 06, 2023 at 12:19 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Karen R Setti.*



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September 05, 2023 at 09:06 AM



“ *Karen, you were a guiding light and inspiration to those who were privileged to work with you. You are a constant seeker of knowledge and sharing. God bless your beautiful soul!*

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**Patti Sugalski** - September 04, 2023 at 06:53 PM



“ *Bart Rice lit a candle in memory of Karen Setti*



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**Bart Rice** - September 02, 2023 at 07:51 PM