



## Karen Lee Williams

December 31, 1939 - April 17, 2026

Karen Lee Williams passed away peacefully on April 17, 2026, in Union Gap, Washington, at the age of 86.

Karen was born on December 31, 1939, in Toppenish, Washington, to Rod and Doris Taft. She was the oldest of two children and entered the world weighing 5 pounds, 8 ounces. She was very close to her younger Bob growing up. She was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at a young age, a faith that remained part of her life. From early on, Karen had a deep love for animals—especially cats. One of her first words was “kitty,” and throughout her life she adored many feline companions, including her beloved Snowball.

Karen grew up in Toppenish and graduated from Toppenish High School in 1958. During her school years, she was active in choir and served as President of the "Theta Rhos", reflecting both her love of music and her natural leadership. She carried that love of music with her throughout her life, especially enjoying country music and the songs of Elvis Presley.

In her early twenties, Karen had a spirited side that those close to her fondly remember. She owned a yellow 1957 Chevy adorned with red flames on the sides and could often be found drag racing it at Renegade Raceway—an example of her bold and adventurous nature.

Karen spent much of her working life in the agricultural industry, including time with Inland Fruit. She was known by coworkers and friends alike for her sweet and kind personality. At the same time, she had a feisty streak and was never

afraid to speak her mind—qualities that made her both respected and deeply loved.

In 1970, Karen married Doug Williams. Together they built their home in Wapato, Washington, where they created a life filled with family and memories. Their marriage lasted until Doug's passing in 1997. Karen remained in their family home until 2025, cherishing the place they had built together.

Through her marriage to Doug, Karen became a devoted second mother to his four children—Vickie, Randy, Steve, and Cindy. She loved and cared for them as her own, forming strong and lasting bonds. She also deeply cherished her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who brought her immense pride and joy.

Karen was an avid sports fan. She loved watching basketball, baseball, and football. She was an avid Seattle Mariners and Seattle Seahawks fan. She especially was a big fan of Tom Brady.

Karen will be remembered for her warmth, her strength, her honesty, and her unwavering love for her family. Her gentle kindness, paired with her spirited nature, left a lasting impression on all who knew her.

She will be dearly missed and forever remembered.

Karen was preceded in death by her parents Rod and Doris Taft, her brother Robert Taft, and her husband Doug Williams.

Karen is survived by her four children, Vickie (Greg) Haubrich, Randy (Janet) Williams, Steve (Connie) Williams, and Cindy (Greg) Bachmeier. She is also survived by her grandchildren Nicholas Halvorson, Nichole Halvorson, Rena Laws, Curtis Williams, Kaylynn Williams, Traci Stout, Terry Laws, Chris Williams, Jeremy Williams, Brandon Williams, Shirley Bachmeier and Ryan Williams. As well as 16 great-grandchildren.

Services will be held May 6th, 2026 and Colonial Funeral Home in Toppenish, Wa. Followed by graveside services at Zillah Cemetery.

# Cemetery Details

## Zillah City Cemetery

1st Avenue  
Zillah, WA

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR **24**. 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM (PT)

Heggie's Colonial Funeral Home  
228 S. Alder Street  
Toppenish, WA 98948  
(509) 865-3222  
[info@heggiescolonialfuneralhome.com](mailto:info@heggiescolonialfuneralhome.com)

## Funeral Service

MAY **6**. 11:00 AM (PT)

Heggie's Colonial Funeral Home  
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