



Karla Sue Raker Oliver

November 1, 1957 - March 3, 2026

Karla Sue (Raker) Oliver, 68, of Crawfordville, Florida, entered peacefully into the presence of her Lord on March 3, 2026. Born November 1, 1957, in Tallahassee, Florida, Karla lived a life marked by deep faith, sacrificial love, and a quiet devotion to the people God placed in her path.

Just days before her passing, Karla was preceded in death by the love of her life and husband of nearly fifty years, Elmer Ellis Oliver Jr. For nearly five decades they walked faithfully side by side, serving the Lord together and building a life centered on Christ, their family, and the countless souls they were blessed to encourage along the way. She was also preceded in death by her parents, M.D. and Ruth Raker, and her brother, Marvin Donald Pelt.

Karla leaves behind a legacy of love through her children: Matthew Oliver, Rachel (Oliver) Wheeler, and Elijah Oliver, and through the eight grandchildren who brought immeasurable joy to her heart: Autumn Powers, Jesse Oliver, Rylee Stewart, Thomas Wheeler, Carter Wheeler, Aurora Oliver, Madison Wilson, and Karla-Jane Oliver. Her love for them was fierce and unwavering. No distance was too far and no obstacle too great when it came to showing up for those she loved. She is also lovingly remembered by her special niece, Kim Crum, along with numerous cousins who each held a special place in her heart.

Those who knew Karla quickly recognized the exceptional beauty of her spirit. She possessed a servant's heart and a remarkable gift for making others feel seen, welcomed, and loved. She truly never met a stranger. With a quiet

discernment, she often seemed to know who “her people” were before a word was ever spoken, and the friendships she formed were deeply treasured and held close to her heart. Yet alongside that warmth was a steadfast honesty - Karla loved people enough to speak the truth. She would not hesitate to gently but firmly call someone out when they were in the wrong, believing that real love meant guiding one another back to what was right. And when it came to her family - especially her grandchildren - her love was fearless. She would go to battle for them without hesitation.

Her days often began in the quiet stillness of early morning, Bible open, speaking softly with her Heavenly Father. That deep and abiding faith carried her through every season of life. After the passing of her beloved Ellis, she found comfort and renewed hope when she watched him catch his first glimpse of Glory. Something changed in her from that moment on, she stopped fighting to live, and she began speaking with joyful anticipation of the day she would see Jesus and be reunited with him again.

Karla delighted in the simple gifts of life. The beach was her sanctuary, where she loved combing the shoreline for shark teeth and seashells - able to identify each one with surprising precision. The kitchen was another place where her love overflowed; she found joy in preparing healthy meals and remembering each person’s favorite dish. And no small indulgence brought her more delight than dark chocolate, which never failed to bring a sparkle to her eyes.

Her home reflected the same warmth she carried in her heart. Plants flourished under her care, and she loved propagating them so they could grow in the homes of others as well. But more than plants, she loved giving - no one ever left her home empty-handed. Whether a small gift, a treat, or a thoughtful goodie bag, Karla always found a way to bless those around her. Her familiar greeting, “Hey Baby,” became a signature expression of the warmth she shared so freely with others. She loved worship music and could often be found happily working through one of her many cleaning or organizing projects - tasks that seemed endless but always brought her

contentment.

Scripture reminds us in Isaiah 40:31:

“But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”

Today we rejoice in the promise that Karla has received that renewal. Whole and healed, she now stands in the presence of her Savior, reunited with Ellis, dancing together before the Lord in perfect peace.

Her life leaves behind a legacy of faith, generosity, and unwavering love - a legacy that will continue to live on in the hearts of all who were blessed to know her.

A Funeral Service will be held on March 10, 2026, from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Family Funeral Home, 3106 Crawfordville Highway. Visitation will take place from 10:00–11:00 AM prior to the service. A reception with lunch and fellowship will follow at Lake Ellen Baptist Church.

Arrangements are under the care of Young Family Funeral Home.

Cemetery Details

Oliver Cemetery

Wakulla Station
Crawfordville, FL 32327

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 10. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (est)

Family Funeral Home-Harvey Young Chapel
3106 Crawfordville Hwy.
Crawfordville, FL 32327
paula@familyfhc.com

Funeral Service

MAR 10. 11:00 AM (est)

Young Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel
3106 Crawfordville Hwy
Crawfordville, FL 32327

Tribute Wall



“ *Young Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Karla Sue Raker Oliver*



Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services - March 09 at 04:07 PM

HM

Beautiful

Helen McCormick - April 11 at 08:17 PM

HM

“ *Helen McCormick sent a virtual gift in memory of Karla Sue Raker Oliver*



Helen McCormick - April 11 at 08:23 PM

HM

“ *Helen McCormick lit a candle in memory of Karla Sue Raker Oliver*



Helen McCormick - April 11 at 08:22 PM



“ 167 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services - March 09 at 03:33 PM



“ *The Locke Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Karla Sue Raker Oliver.*



The Locke Family - March 08 at 06:34 PM



“ *Karla Sue's legacy is her joyous spirit and the way she loved. Her example of obedience, discipline, and faith is something to which all should aspire. May her children be blessed immeasurably.*

Sandra Vidak - March 07 at 03:22 PM

SV

“ *Sandra and Walter Vidak purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Karla Sue Raker Oliver.*



Sandra and Walter Vidak - March 07 at 03:14 PM

SJ

“ *Sarabeth Jones lit a candle in memory of Karla Sue Raker Oliver*



Sarabeth Jones - March 06 at 08:07 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Karla Sue Raker Oliver.*



March 05 at 01:27 PM