



## Karen L. Novak, R.N.

September 29, 1950 - April 21, 2026

Karen L. Novak, age 75, of Cleveland, passed away Tuesday evening April 21, 2026 following a period of declining health.

Born in Lorain on September 29, 1950, Karen was a 1968 graduate of Lorain High School where she was a member of the National Honor Society and the A-Cappella Choir. Following her graduation, she enrolled in the M.B. Johnson School of Nursing at Elyria Memorial Hospital to pursue her dream of becoming a Registered Nurse. Upon graduation, Karen began her career at St. Joseph's Hospital in Lorain. After several years at St. Joe's, Karen joined University Hospitals of Cleveland in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit of Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital. During the next thirty five years, she left an indelible mark on the lives of thousands of infants as well as their parents and advocates.

A former parishioner of Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Lorain, Karen was an avid fan of the Cleveland Browns, the Cavaliers, and the Indians. But her true passion was rooting for The Ohio State University Football Buckeyes !! She also enjoyed travel, music and decorating her yard with floral baskets and arrangements. Karen was deeply devoted to her extended family and took great pride in encouraging their pursuits, celebrating their achievements and supporting their many interests and activities.

She leaves her brother Ron Novak (Karen), sister Marianne Smith and her nephew Mark Osko (Nancy).

Karen was preceded in death by her father Jerome Novak, mother Mary Novak (nee Lute), sister Patricia Leboda and nephew William Huskinson.

Visitation will be Saturday May 2, 2026 from 4:00 p.m. until the time of funeral services at 6:00 p.m. in the Gluvna-Shimo-Hromada Funeral Chapel – 3224 Broadway, Lorain. Members of the Northeast Ohio Nurse Honor Guard will conduct a memorial service beginning at 6:00 p.m. to be followed by family reflections and a closing prayer.

A private burial will take place at Calvary Cemetery at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to University Hospital Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital.

# Cemetery Details

## Calvary Cemetery

555 N Ridge Rd  
Lorain, OH 44053  
<https://clecem.org/Cemeteries/CalvaryLorain.aspx>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**MAY 2.** 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Gluvna-Shimo-Hromada Funeral Chapel  
3224 Broadway  
Lorain, OH 44055  
(440) 246-2118  
[gluvnashimohromada@gmail.com](mailto:gluvnashimohromada@gmail.com)  
<http://www.gluvnashimohromada.com>

## Funeral Services

**MAY 2.** 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM (ET)

Gluvna-Shimo-Hromada Funeral Chapel  
3224 Broadway  
Lorain, OH 44055  
(440) 246-2118  
[gluvnashimohromada@gmail.com](mailto:gluvnashimohromada@gmail.com)  
<http://www.gluvnashimohromada.com>

# Tribute Wall

SN

“ *The Northeast Ohio Nurse Honor Guard wishes to express our sincere condolences to the family and friends of nurse, Karen L. Novak, RN.*



*We thank her for her contribution to caring for others and representing the nursing profession with trust, dignity and respect. Your nurse colleagues will take over from here.*

*Rest in peace.*

*neohnursehonorguard@gmail.com  
<https://northeastohionursehonorguard.com/>*

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**Secretary NEOHNHG** - June 08 at 11:03 AM

KT

“ *We are very sorry for your loss. We know how much your sister meant to you. Please know you're in our thoughts, and prayers. We are here if you need anything at all. Love Karen and Alex*

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**Karen and Alex Tomoff** - April 28 at 09:03 AM

NS

“ *Sisters at MBJ and close friends with our nurse classmates. Loved our lunches every 3 months and staying in touch. She and Nancy Vegh are side by side in heaven now. Will miss you my friend. Nora*

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**Nora Schrenkel** - April 28 at 08:52 AM

BJ

“ Karen and I worked together years ago and developed a close friendship that lasted over 40 years. We enjoyed traveling together. We shared some fun experiences in Arizona at the 2007 College Football National Championship game, trips to South Carolina, North Carolina for a friend's,, daughter's wedding. We visited New Orleans twice for sporting events. One of the best trips we had was our trip to Aruba. I sorely our texts first thing in the morning -- wishing each other a good day. My friend I will miss you for the good person you were. I am a better person for having had you in my life. Rest in Peace my dear friend. You will be missed by many people whose lives you touched.

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**Bev Joyner** - April 27 at 05:53 PM