



## Dr. Karen Denise Metts Blanset

December 21, 1955 - April 5, 2019

Saluda, SC

Dr. Karen Denise Metts Blanset, 63, of 104 Birdsong Lane, Saluda, S.C., passed away on April 5, 2019 along with her precious grandson, John-Michael Burton Hall.

Born in Newberry County and a daughter of Winford Oneal Metts and Mary Eleanor Palmer Metts, she was the wife of Richard Lee "Rick" Blanset. Karen was a graduate of Saluda High School and Lander College. She earned her Master's Degree in Reading and her Doctorate in Administration from the University of South Carolina. She was a devoted educator to children starting her career in the classroom, later as an Instructional Specialist and culminating her career as Principal of Millbrook Elementary School in Aiken, S.C.

Karen was gifted with many talents which she lovingly shared with family, colleagues and friends.

Karen is survived by her husband, Richard Lee "Rick" Blanset; two daughters, Erin Michelle Ledford Talbert (Harvey, Jr.) of McCormick and Christen Oneal Bingham Hall (Matthew) of Lexington; her parents, Winford Oneal Metts and Mary Eleanor Palmer Metts of Saluda; two sisters, Marlene Metts of Columbia

and Elizabeth Metts White (Wayne) of Greenwood; three grandchildren, Kaden Bingham Hodges and Sawyer Hayes Hall both of Lexington and Logan Ansleigh Talbert of McCormick; a sister-in-law, Virginia Tyler Metts of Greenwood; and she was “Aunt KK” to numerous nieces and nephews.

Karen was preceded in death by a brother, Marion Layne Metts and a special cousin, Michael Holt Metts.

The family will receive friends Wednesday, April 10, 2019 from 6 until 8 p.m. at Ramey Funeral Home of Saluda.

Funeral services will be held 11 a.m. Thursday, April 11, 2019 at Mt. Pleasant Lutheran Church with Rev. Jim Glander officiating. Interment will follow in Travis Park Cemetery.

The family would like to thank all of the first responders, specifically the sheriff’s and coroner’s offices, U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, State Law Enforcement Division, EMS and four fire departments: Saluda, Midlands, Hollywood and Old Town.

Memorials may be made to Multiple Sclerosis Association, 375 Kings Highway, North, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034.

# Cemetery Details

## Travis Park Cemetery

Travis Avenue  
Saluda, SC

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 10. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

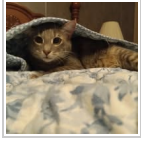
Ramey Funeral Home  
202 N Rudolph St  
Saluda, SC 29138  
(864) 445-2366

## Funeral

APR 11. 11:00 AM (ET)

Mount Pleasant Lutheran Church  
101 N. Calhoun Street  
Saluda, SC

# Tribute Wall



“ Winford, Eleanor, Marlene, and Elizabeth, I just discovered this obituary today (June 13). I am so sorry for your loss. I have very fond memories of Karen. We graduated together and were friends from the time I was in the sixth grade. My prayers will be with you throughout the coming days and months. Sincerely, Randy Kirby

Randy Kirby - June 13, 2019 at 09:24 PM

SS

“ My deepest and most sincere sympathies to Karen's family (especially the girls). We were neighbors on Old Troy Trail in Montmorenci, SC and became good friends. We enjoyed auctions and movies together and spending time together with our children. She was a great friend and a beautiful lady. My thoughts and prayers and with her family- much love is sent to each of you!



Most sincerely, Sally Sharpe

Sally Sharpe - April 11, 2019 at 07:58 PM

SP

“ I remember Karen when she first married and lived next door to Ernest & me.. She taught & I even kept her baby a few times. In fact she visited me probably a year ago and we enjoyed talking about the good old days. So sorry for and the precious little ones untimely death. May God reichley bless her loved ones left here.

Fondly,  
Shirley H. Padgett

Shirley Padgett - April 10, 2019 at 04:39 PM



“ *European Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Dr. Karen Denise Metts Blanset.*



---

April 10, 2019 at 12:50 PM

“ *In loving Memory of Karen D. Metts Blanset, Ph.D.*

*Karen Denise Metts Blanset, Ph.D., is a heroine.*

*Hero comes from the Greek: when translated, it means defender or protector. Karen Blanset is both; because, she gave her life protecting and defending the lives of her two grandchildren with great love and indomitable courage. This has been proven to be the infallible truth and the facts are incontrovertible. Her death, while tragic, is a testament to her nobility and character as a mother, daughter, wife, educator, and devoted grandmother.*

*April 5th, 2019, Friday morning, she awoke to discover there was fire in her home; whereupon, she sent her four-year-old grandson (Sawyer) outside to safety; she followed him outside and once there called her husband who was working in Charleston.*

*After a very brief conversation with Rick and in haste, she re-entered the home, hoping to find John Michael who was upstairs asleep. Locking the doors behind her to prevent the boy (Sawyer) from following her back into the house, she knew she had to attempt a rescue. With single-minded determination, she knew she must save the life of John Michael. Her abounding faith, love and great courage were the only the tools that she carried into the house.*

*Smoke filled the room, while more smoke filled the house.*

*She was discovered later by rescue personnel at the base the stairs; John Michael was discovered upstairs in his bed. According to reports, Neither Karen nor John Michael could be resuscitated at the home.*

*Many news outlets rushed to report the fire and the casualties of this tragedy, but nothing was ever said about the “true story” of why a grandmother gave her life for her grandchildren.*

*A true Profile in Courage, our hero, Karen D Metts Blanset, Ph.D.*

*Our immediate family rejoices in knowing that God welcomes her with John Michael in her arms.*

*C. Sam Bingham*

---

**C Sam Bingham** - April 10, 2019 at 06:31 AM

JS

“ *Our deepest heartfelt condolences, we are all shocked and shaken here on Birdsong Lane, we share in your grief and sorry. Joni & Robert Spires*

---

**Joni Spires** - April 09, 2019 at 12:58 PM

TF

“ *Terry Ledford and family purchased the Floor Plant for Sympathy for the family of Dr. Karen Denise Metts Blanset.*



---

**Terry Ledford and family** - April 09, 2019 at 09:48 AM

SE

“ *Rick, thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this time. Anthony & Sebrena Matthews*

---

**Sebrena** - April 09, 2019 at 08:25 AM

GF

“ Gerri, Harley and Beverly Price family purchased the Classic Sympathy Dish Garden for the family of Dr. Karen Denise Metts Blanset.



---

**Gerri, Harley and Beverly Price family** - April 09, 2019 at 07:30 AM

ME

“ Karen was principal at Millbrook Elementary when I was working at Millbrook. This is a shock to all of us. I want to say that I just talked to her a month ago and she sounded great. Karen picked a date to go to my condo in Hilton Head and was excited about taking the boys. My heart is torn as I think of the horror of that fatal night, God Bless you and give you strength during this difficult time. Marion Engel

---

**Marion Engel** - April 08, 2019 at 09:18 PM

BD

“ My most sincere sympathies are extended to the family and friends of Karen. I value our time working together. Her strength and wisdom will always be admired and may memories of her comfort us all.

---

**Bonnie Dunbar** - April 08, 2019 at 07:44 PM

PG

“ Pat Garvin lit a candle in memory of Dr. Karen Denise Metts Blanset



---

**Pat Garvin** - April 08, 2019 at 07:19 PM

MH

“ Our deepest sympathy to you brother, we are so very sorry for your great loss. It is so hard to find words right now.

*Michelle and Dave*

---

**Michelle & Dave Holt** - April 08, 2019 at 06:50 PM

DB

“ Karen contributed so very much during her life and left an important legacy in the students whose lives she touched. All of the Metts families are in my prayers.

---

**Debra DeLoache Bishop** - April 08, 2019 at 05:18 PM

RH

“ There are no words to express my deepest sympathy to the family and to those who her life touched. I will always remember our "girlhood" days growing up together, the camp out in her back yard, spend the night parties, and drivers training where we laughed 'til we cried - we had so much fun! Two lights have passed from this world, but the warm glow they left in the hearts of those who loved them will forever remain.

---

**Rosemary Herlong** - April 08, 2019 at 04:01 PM



Meredith Adams

“ Dr. Blansett hired me to teach at Millbrook Elementary where she remained my principal until her retirement. She was quick-witted, funny, compassionate, and very helpful. I am praying for your family at this tragic time as I know she will be deeply missed by all who were fortunate enough to know and love her.

---

**Meredith Adams** - April 08, 2019 at 01:03 PM