



Karl Thomas Baker

August 1, 1952 - June 14, 2025

Karl Thomas Baker Jr., 72, passed away peacefully at home in Philomath on Saturday, June 14, 2025, surrounded by loved ones.

Born in Portland, Oregon, on August 1, 1952, Karl lived a life defined by strength, steady devotion, and a deep love for his family. As a dedicated police officer, he served his community with honor and integrity, earning the respect of colleagues and the gratitude of those he protected. His decades of service included time with the Corvallis Police Department from 1974 to 1981 and with the Albany Police Department from 1984 to 1999—leaving a legacy of courage, leadership, and unwavering commitment to doing what was right. Remarkably, Karl continued to serve others even while privately battling a devastating illness for more than 25 years. It took immense courage and quiet optimism to face each day, especially when his body was no longer equal to his deep desire to be helpful. Despite his pain, he remained steady, kind, and present—never letting his struggle diminish his spirit or his care for those around him.

Karl was always one call away—ready to help, to listen, or simply to show up when someone needed him most. Whether in uniform or as a father, friend, or neighbor, he was the person people turned to in times of need. He lived to protect, to serve, and to love.

He never met a stranger. Friendly and openhearted, Karl had a gift for connecting with people and made everyone feel seen and valued. Whether through a brief chat or a lasting friendship, he took time to truly know people—and he never forgot their stories.

He was known for his calm presence, generous spirit, and approachable warmth. Karl found joy in the outdoors, working with his hands, spending time with family, and being with his beloved dogs. Though he never sought the spotlight, he had a steady, quiet way of showing up for the people and causes that mattered most.

Karl is survived by his high school sweetheart/wife of 50 years, LoAnn; his children, Kristopher, Jennifer, and Kathryn; his sisters, Susan and Catherine; and his grandchildren: Charles, Elisabeth, Kaden, Mikayla, and Emma. He was preceded in death by his parents, Karl Sr. and Virginia, and his brother, Mark.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, July 12, at 1:00 p.m. at the Philomath Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 150 James St., Philomath, OR 97370. All are welcome to attend to celebrate and honor Karl's life. For those interested in sending flowers, please ensure they are delivered within two hours of the start of the service so that someone is available to receive them, thank you.

He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered—for his service, his empathy, his kindness, and the way he made everyone feel like a friend.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUL 12. 1:00 PM (PT)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
150 James St.
Philomath, OR 97370

Tribute Wall

PC

“ Condolences.



Patti Canon Clifton - July 05, 2025 at 05:47 PM

PA

“ Karl was always a hero in our eyes! We all loved it when he and LoAnn would come to visit. Always the first to offer that big bear hug, his wonderful “ Well hello there!” or help out in so many ways. He will always be remembered for his fierce devotion to his family and unwavering love! We will miss him! Pary

Pary - July 04, 2025 at 12:18 AM

MS

“ First, let me extend my condolences and sympathy to his family for their loss. Karl and I went to school together, graduating from CHS in 1970. I remember Karl as athletic, built like a linebacker and a jock, , but he didn't act like one. He was friendly, smart, and had the "Karl" smile. We went our different ways until 1974. I returned from the Marines and was hired with the Benton County Sheriff's Department. Karl was working as a patrolman with Corvallis PD, still with the "Karl" smile, and was just as friendly. He had a great reputation for being caring, fair, and level-headed. Again, we went different ways, still in Law Enforcement. He went to the Albany PD. I went to the Portland Police Bureau. My heart is sad, but I smile thinking of how he was such a great man and served his community with the "Karl" smile

Michael Stevenson - July 03, 2025 at 09:09 PM

TL

“ When I first met Karl he gave me a big hug and said welcome to the family. Every year Colene the kids and I would fly from NY only to hear the kids say can we go over and see Uncle Karl. From tractor rides to 4th of July celebrations. Karl was the light to us all. For us whi remain I know and believe that Death is only a pause in the conversation. You will ne missed Karl

Thomas McCormick brother in law - July 03, 2025 at 04:50 PM

CS

“ Karl and family are in our thoughts and prayers. Jean and Charlie Severson

Charles F. Severson - June 25, 2025 at 02:10 PM

TT

“ Rest in peace as you join SR., Mark, and mother, Virginia in paradise. You were a good man who did good works on this earth.

Thomas Tracewell - June 18, 2025 at 04:20 PM