



Karl K. Kearse

December 20, 1930 - May 16, 2018

It is with great sadness that the family of Karl K. Kearse announces his passing on Wednesday, May 16, 2018 at the age of 87.

Family and friends are invited to attend Karl's visitation on Sunday, May 20, 2018 from 5 to 7 o'clock at James A. Dyal Funeral Home. A Funeral Mass will be held on Monday, May 21, 2018 at 11 o'clock at St. John the Beloved Catholic Church, 28 Sumter St., Summerville, SC.

Born to Evelyn and Jack Kearse on December 20, 1930 Karl grew up in Adams Run, SC, where he discovered his love for music. He attended William and Mary where he graduated with a degree in Music prior to attending Louisiana State University to receive his Masters in Music.

After teaching music at Metairie Junior High School in New Orleans for three years, Karl moved back to Adams Run, SC where he began teaching music at Summerville High School from 1966 until 1984 when he transferred to St Johns High School. It was from there that he retired in 1992, but continued to substitute teach until 1998.

Throughout his long career, Karl had the privilege of teaching hundreds of students, many of whom he remained in contact with long after they left his classroom. He directed annual musicals as well as several Broadway plays

during his tenure at Summerville High School making him known to the local community.

After retirement, Karl and his wife of 44 years spent their time traveling having enjoyed visiting 48 of the 50 states.

Karl is survived by his wife, Gwendolyn, daughter Lee Ann Johnson (Scott Rockholt), son Richard Kearse (Becky), 3 grandchildren, Ashley Sacco, Nathan and Maloree Kearse, one step-grandaughter, Kayla Laughlin, one great granddaughter, Ella Sacco and three Nephews, Jack, Paul and Herbie Kearse.

He was preceded in death by his Mother and Father, Evelyn and Jack and two brothers, Wildon and Gerry.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Heartland Hospice at 1064 Gardner Road, STE 204, Charleston, SC 29407.

A memorial message may be written to the family by visiting our website at www.jamesadyal.com.

ARRANGEMENTS BY JAMES A. DYAL FUNERAL HOME, 303 SOUTH MAIN STREET, SUMMERVILLE, SC 29483 (843)873-4040.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY **20**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

James A. Dyal Funeral Home
303 S. Main Street
Summerville, SC 29483
(843) 873-4040
<https://www.jamesadyal.com>

Service

MAY **21**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. John the Beloved Catholic Church
28 Sumter Avenue
Summerville, SC 29483

Tribute Wall



“ *James A Dyal Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Karl K. Kears*



James A Dyal Funeral Home - May 20, 2018 at 07:43 AM



“ *Karl K. Kears*

September 29, 2022 at 10:11 AM



“ *I am so sad, I was gathering pictures of my Uncle Karl to give to him and I found out he is already in heaven! He taught me to love opera, we would go to the beach and all we did was laugh! I will miss him! I loved my Uncle Karl!!!!*

Kay Morris - June 22, 2018 at 06:32 AM



“ *I was blessed to be in chorus and glee club all four years of high school and to have Mr. Kears as my teacher every year. What a fun time that was, and I learned so much from him! He and his wife came to my mother's memorial service in 2014, and that was the last time I saw them. So sorry to learn that we have lost him.*

Paula Pow - May 30, 2018 at 02:20 AM

 Aletha Smoak

“ Leeann I am so sorry to read of your fathers death. I remember him well. I pray that you find peace an his passing! God Bless you all!
With love, Aletha Dukes Smoak

Aletha Smoak - May 23, 2018 at 02:14 PM

GL

“ I am very sad to hear about Mr. Kearse passing. He was a wonderful teacher and his influence on me and my ultimate career was profound. I'll always remember him directing “Fiddler on the Roof” my senior year, and am grateful that he let me be a part of that wonderful production. May God bless him and all of his family.

Greg Lowery - May 22, 2018 at 09:21 PM

JW

“ Mr Kearse was a talented teacher. I was able to share his love of music in his chorus for many years. His productions were so much fun. He will be remembered fondly forever

jean hunt walker - May 20, 2018 at 07:30 AM

SH

“ Sherry Holland lit a candle in memory of Karl K. Kearse



Sherry Holland - May 18, 2018 at 01:58 PM

SH

“*“Three fingers! Three fingers” he'd point three fingers as he looked over his glasses at you. Four years loved them all. Best shows ever. Taught us songs in Latin I'll never forget. Loved you Daddy K❤️*

Sherry Holland - May 18, 2018 at 01:55 PM

DC

“*He took me to Allstate twice. He wasn't only a teacher, he was a friend. What a sense of humor. I loved that man. Every thought of him is of a fond memory. What a wonderful life he lived.*



Dayle Tumbleston Craven - May 18, 2018 at 01:45 PM

MW

“*Our deepest sympathies to the family. You are in our thoughts and prayers.*
The VSU Bookstore Team

Monica Waskosky - May 18, 2018 at 09:45 AM

JR

“*Mr. Kearse was a wonderful teacher and friend to our family! He was a big part of so many of my best memories at SHS. His sense of humor was the best! Praying for your family, as I know you will miss him dearly!*

Jan Moody Reeves - May 18, 2018 at 06:41 AM

KT

Mr. Kearsce was such an integral part of my high school years. He taught me so much about quality music and a love of music . We were all so lucky that he was our teacher inspiring us and enriching our lives. I know he's leading a chorus of angels in heaven. You will be dearly missed. I love you... from one of your Harrison Husseys.

Karen Harrison Thompson - May 18, 2018 at 07:03 AM

DM

“ So sorry to hear of Mr. Kearsce's passing. Keeping all of you in my prayers.

Devenney Mazell - May 18, 2018 at 03:08 AM

DM

“ Truly one of the greatest teachers ever! If you were lucky enough to have chorus and be in the glee club with him, you were blessed! With just his professional yet happy demeanor he made you feel an important part of his team. Singing with the angels now

Donna Garvin McMillan - May 17, 2018 at 08:30 PM

 Audrey Ostrander

“ Very sad to hear that Daddy K has passed away. He gave me my knick name, "Swan," after I was the first of the "seven swan were swimming" swimming across the stage and I fell gracefully during the first night of our Christmas Show sophomore year. I will always remember the three years we spent in his care. I love you Daddy and Momma K! Hope to see you in Heaven.
Audrey "Swan" Fewox Osteen, Class of '82



Audrey Ostrander - May 17, 2018 at 04:50 PM

 April
Morales

“ *Summerville High School 1975. He made school bearable and fun. Every time I walked in the room he would play April in Paris. One day he asked if anyone could jitterbug for the show. I told him my mom can, so he had her come in and teach Chuckie West to jitterbug. He thought out of the box and I loved that about him!*

April Dreps

April Morales - May 17, 2018 at 03:32 PM

BT

“ *Oh my, He was amazing! Loved every minute of Glee Club and still love singing those wonderful Show Tunes he taught us! I will never forget this man and the JOY he brought to my life* ❤️❤️❤️

billie warren tomlerlin - May 17, 2018 at 01:50 PM

 Cynthia
Miller

I still sing those songs too. Cynthia Tuttle Miller

Cynthia Miller - May 17, 2018 at 10:26 PM

SW

Mr. Kearsse was a big influence in my life--and he made Chorus and Glee Club so much fun!! We need more teachers than ever like Mr. Kearsse!!

Shawna Steele Williams, SHS 1982

Shawna Williams - May 18, 2018 at 06:32 AM

DB

“ Mr Kears was both my Chorus and Glee club teacher at Summerville High School. He greatly influenced my music education. We sang numerous show tunes and spirituals that stay with me today. I especially remember singing in a trio, and at a competition at Baptist College at Charleston, now known as Charleston Southern University, where we sang the beautiful "Battle Hymn of the Republic." We also sang, "You'll Never Walk Alone" at my high school graduation. I credit Mr Kears with awakening my interest in lyrics and music.

Mr Kears believed in me, even so far as writing a letter to my father, encouraging him to allow me to continue in Glee Club when he wanted me to take another course. Happily, I remained in Glee Club. I am blessed to have been just one of Mr Kears's pupils, and remain grateful for his lifelong influence.

In deepest sympathy,

*Debra Patterson Baker
SHS, Class of 1974*

Debra Baker - May 17, 2018 at 01:30 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Karl K. Kears.



May 17, 2018 at 10:01 AM

RM

“ *Rosemary McDonald purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Karl K. Kears.*



Rosemary McDonald - May 17, 2018 at 09:30 AM