



Darlene Kowal

November 15, 1957 - March 29, 2026

Darlene Kowal was born in Woodbury, NJ to Claire (Margaret) and Peter Kowal. She graduated from Pennsville Memorial High School in 1975 and attended Dallas Baptist College in Dallas, Texas and later received her Masters Degree from Wilmington College in DE. Darlene was employed as a teacher for 33 years, first in the Dallas area and then in the Pennsville school district until she retired in 2012.

Darlene loved to take road trips and visited many places in her lifetime, including Guam, where she earned her scuba diving certificate. Darlene had no children of her own, but fostered many children over the years. She was “Aunt Dar” to them as well as many of her students and especially her own nieces and nephews, always supporting their fundraisers and being involved in their sports, activities and interests.

She was predeceased by her parents, Pete and Margaret, 2 brothers, Pete, Jr. and infant brother, Kenny, and her nephew, Pete, III.

She is survived by her brother Gary (Judi) of Pennsville, 4 nieces and 3 nephews and many cousins and family members who will deeply miss her.

Darlene passed peacefully at noon on Palm Sunday, 3/29/26 surrounded by friends and family.

We rejoice that she has gone home to be with her Lord and Savior.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. at the Ashcraft Funeral Home in Pennsville, NJ. Internment will be private at a later date.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 18. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Ashcraft Funeral Home (PV)
740 S. Broadway
Pennsville, NJ 08070
(856) 299-3366
ashcraftfuneralhomes@gmail.com

Memorial Service

APR 18. 12:00 PM (ET)

Ashcraft Funeral Home (PV)
740 S. Broadway
Pennsville, NJ 08070
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Tribute Wall

JM

“ *Johnson Family, Tim, Denise, Maya purchased the Stars in the Sky - Elements Angel for the family of Darlene Kowal.*



Johnson Family, Tim, Denise, Maya - April 19 at 11:42 AM

DA

“ True to their word, in 1977 some of the good girls of Dallas Baptist College, led by Darlene, stepped up and welcomed my little sister Carol into their circle of true friendship, which would prove to be lasting and lifelong. Here's Carol take on "Dar" with some beautiful memories put into the “wonderful words of life”:

“How can I put into words the many, many years a special close college friend and one-semester roommate Darlene Kowal was. Life is short. A speck in eternity. She was welcomed into the presence of Jesus at noon March 29, 2026.

She was an instant friend introduced to me by my brother David in the summer of 1977 at a Dallas Baptist College weekend for potential new students.

After moving on campus that fall, the first of many of Dar's pranks was stealing my clothes and leaving an opened umbrella at the shower (which was separate from our rooms). I showed her! ...by wrapping the whole shower curtain around myself and walking back to my room, holding the umbrella.

Other memories of her initiation to college life include throwing water balloons down the hall of the guys' dorm. Then hiding a guy in the broom closet of the girls' dorm while he held a bucket of water (he had planned to retaliate with), from “Ma Paine,” the girls' dorm director. From what I was told, she lived up to her name.

Dressing up like Groucho and Harpo at Halloween was fun and hilarious! I still have a snapshot.

Another fun memory with Dar, was borrowing lunch trays and using them for sleds when it snowed. Such fun! I remember waiting in line to take a turn sledding down a culvert off the interstate. I think once was enough for me...it was a long culvert.

Dar once talked me into skipping class in order to ride in a naval

helicopter which landed on campus grounds and as many as were allowed piled in. The naval air station nearby must have had pilots who needed flight time.

Dar and I loved to sing with my guitar. She was the one who would encourage me to bring it out so a whole group of us could sing together on “the ramp” after supper. Those times were some of the best memories as we all sang Christian songs, a new event in my new life.

She, being far from her home in New Jersey, would sometimes spend weekends with me about a half hour away from DBC, in Everman, Texas, outside of Fort Worth. I still have a snapshot my Dad took one Sunday morning, before church, in our dresses and bare feet.

There are so many more memories I could share. Among them was the semester Dar and I were roommates and after I met my future husband, Dick. On Friday nights, he would call down to our room on the intercom, so she soon nicknamed him my “Friday night guy.” In December of ‘79, she was one of my bridesmaids when I married my “Friday night guy.”

We remained very close friends throughout the past 49 years.

I’m so glad I know I’ll see you again, Dar. Save me a seat at the Banquet Table!”

—Carol Couric Tribou (2026)

Dave - April 18 at 06:45 AM

DC

“ David, Chuck, Richard, Richard, Kevin, Jim, Craig purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Darlene Kowal.



David, Chuck, Richard, Richard, Kevin, Jim, Craig - April 15 at 11:25 AM

FF

“ From : The Hofacker Family purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Darlene Kowal.



From : The Hofacker Family - April 15 at 09:55 AM

FF

“ From : The Hofacker Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Darlene Kowal.

From : The Hofacker Family - April 15 at 09:55 AM

TF

“ The Stephens and Cassaday families purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Darlene Kowal.



The Stephens and Cassaday families - April 13 at 04:31 PM

VG

“ Gary, Judy and family, my deepest sympathy for your loss. May your memories help you through this difficult time. Sincerely, Vickie Carter Gillespie

Vickie Carter Gillespie - April 05 at 07:49 AM

AN

“ I'm so sorry to hear that Ms.Kowal passed. She was an amazing teacher, kind, compassionate. Prayers to her friends and family. She will be missed.

Angela - April 04 at 09:25 PM

LP

“ To Darlene's family,

May Darlene rest in eternal peace and may her memory be eternal.

Sincerely,
Liz Pappas, PV

liz pappas - April 03 at 01:30 PM

BE

“ Ms. Kowal was a wonderful kind teacher with a great sense of humor.



Beth - April 03 at 12:58 PM