



## Karl Houben

May 26, 1967 - March 29, 2026

Wantage - Karl Houben, age 58 passed away on Sunday, March 29, 2026 at his residence. Born in the Bronx, New York, Karl lived in Bayside and Manhattan and was raised in Montclair before moving to Sussex County. For over 30 years, Karl worked as an electrician with Associated Fire Protection in Paterson, where he was known for his strong work ethic, reliability, and pride in his craft. He approached his work with skill and integrity, earning the respect of colleagues and friends alike.

Outside of work, Karl found joy in the things he loved most. He had a deep appreciation for music and took great pride in his collection of guitars, often spending time playing and enjoying the sounds that brought him peace. He was also a true car enthusiast, with a special fondness for classic vehicles from a bygone era. His Malibu cars and his cherished 1968 International pickup were more than just vehicles-they were reflections of his personality and passions.

Above all, Karl will be remembered as a good and caring man with a sensitive soul. He had a quiet way about him, but those who knew him understood his depth, his compassion, and his genuine heart. He leaves behind memories of warmth, sincerity, and a life lived with simple, but meaningful joys. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him

He was predeceased by his son, Kolton Dirk Houben on January 18, 2013 and his father, Dirk Houben. Karl is survived by his wife, Karen Ann (Cullinane); his daughter, Katrina and her significant other Christopher Geimer of Wantage; his mother, Velta Zegel and her husband Jeff of North Carolina; his sister, Karin Houben and her significant other Dan of New York; his nephew, Ezra; his niece, Jericho of New York; his aunt, Ieva Vidner of New York; his step-mother, Anna Zec Houben and her significant other Doug of Montclair; his brother, Kurt Houben of New York; and his cherished grandcats.

Private cremation services have been entrusted to the Pinkel Funeral Home, 31 Bank Street (Route 23), Sussex. Online condolences may be offered to the family at [www.pinkelfuneralhome.com](http://www.pinkelfuneralhome.com)

## Cemetery Details

**Private Cremation Services**

## Events

**Details are pending.**

# Tribute Wall

SZ

“Karl was always friendly and encouraging, a kind soul. I looked forward to getting to know him more when we 'got old' and retired. I am sorry for everyone's loss. My deepest condolences to Karen, Katrina, Velta and his sister Karin.

susan zegel - April 08 at 03:33 PM

SZ

“Susan Z. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karl Houben.

Susan Z. - April 08 at 03:20 PM

AF

“Anna Zec Houben and Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Karl Houben.



Anna Zec Houben and Family - April 06 at 12:50 PM

AF

“Anna Zec Houben and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karl Houben.

Anna Zec Houben and Family - April 06 at 12:50 PM

AF

“ Anna Zec Houben and Family purchased the Sweet Comfort Gift Crate for the family of Karl Houben.



Anna Zec Houben and Family - April 06 at 12:42 PM

AF

“ Anna Zec Houben and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karl Houben.

Anna Zec Houben and Family - April 06 at 12:42 PM

KH

“ 3 files added to the album my big brother



karin alisa houben - April 04 at 09:36 PM

WG

He will be missed Co-worker Walter Geisler friends for 30 years.

Walter Geisler - April 06 at 04:51 AM

VZ

“ My #1 son. You were and always will be the sunshine of my life. When you were little I used to sing You are my sunshine, please don't take my sunshine away. Your everloving Mom

Velta Zegel - April 04 at 10:11 AM

LK

*I am so sorry for your loss*

**Lynn Katz** - April 04 at 11:57 PM

AB

“ Arty & Laura Balkits planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karl Houben.

**Arty & Laura Balkits** - April 03 at 08:26 PM

AB

“ Arty & Laura Balkits purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Karl Houben.



**Arty & Laura Balkits** - April 03 at 08:26 PM

AB

“ Oh, what sad news! Karl certainly was a lover of music. Just this past year he came over to my house with his guitar and we jammed and had a good time. I spoke with him not long after his recent episode when he was hospitalized and thought/ hoped he was out of the woods with that close call. He will be missed! Condolences to Karen/ Katrina and all who loved him. Arty & Laura

**Arthur Balkits** - April 03 at 08:20 PM

IG

*Karl has gone too early from this world. A hard, sad time for all those who loved him. I'm keeping you all in my heart. Friend Ingrida.*

**ingrida Bergs Gray** - April 04 at 12:25 AM



“ *So very sorry for your loss!*



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**Erika Balkits Stazzone** - April 03 at 08:06 PM



“ *Velta Zegel lit a candle in memory of Karl Houben*



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**Velta Zegel** - April 03 at 05:19 PM