

KAREN HEDWIG BACKMAN MARSDEN



Karen Hedwig Backman (Marsden) died December 8, 2023, in Huntsville, Alabama. She was born June 29, 1940, in Mitchell, South Dakota. She earned her Bachelor of Arts, Cum Laude in journalism, from the University of Pittsburgh. She was a poet and political gadfly. Primarily she did public relations, paid or as a volunteer, especially for feminist and liberal political issues. She worked for Pittsburgh Action Against

Rape (PAAR), the National Organization for Women (NOW), and helped found the Freedom Feminist Federal Credit Union in Pittsburgh. She had letters to the Editor published in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and many other newspapers. She wrote a column for the Federal Way Mirror (Washington), and the Dothan Eagle (Alabama) editor once told her he was afraid to publish one of her letters lest someone shoot her. She is survived by her children, Jennifer Marsden (Ronald King), Joseph Marsden, and Gabrielle Marsden (Todd Kaufmann); her grandchildren, Cecilia Wilson (Mitchell) and Veronica King; and her great-grandchild, Felix Wilson. She was preceded in death by her parents, Signe and Elis Backman; her brother, Gene Fisher; and her husband, Jeff Burns.

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