



Karen Tellepsen Class of 1959

Karen Tellepsen, a second-generation Houstonian, attended Lamar High School as did her brother Howard '62, her children Ellen '87 and Loren '90 Kirkpatrick, and 2 nephews Marc '92 and Tom '94 Tellepsen. While at Lamar she was Track Queen, Orenda beauty, American Legion Award winner, Most Representative Senior, top 10%, a Cherokee Sport Leader, May Fete Court Jester, and ROTC Sponsor. During this time, she attended Camp Mystic, was a "M" girl and Kiowa Tribe officer.

With a B.A. in mathematics from University of Texas Austin and a Texas Teaching Certificate she taught at T.H. Rogers Junior High for 3 years. In 1963 Karen, at the age of 21, had her first MS symptoms. She left teaching but returned 36 years later (2002) answering a billboard plea "Will You Be My Teacher". She taught Algebra, Geometry, Physics, Construction Management and English. She retired from Waltrip H.S. in June 2025 after a total of 25 years in HISD classrooms.

Karen has won numerous honors and awards: MS Society "Person on the Move", "Hats Off" by the Blood Center Marrow Donor Program, Texas Volunteer of the Year Commendation, Texas Medical Center Volunteer of the Year (Institute of Religion), Lamar Hall of Fame for Philanthropy, Kappa Kappa Gamma Alumnae Loyalty and Achievement awards.

The 63 years since her diagnosis have been filled with family, friends, and faith; with opportunities to serve her church, community, and youth. She has 2 children: Ellen (husband Jeff), Loren (wife Sarah), and 4 grandsons (all Eagle Scouts). She mentions this with pride as she was very active with the Boy Scouts: a counselor at Winter Camps, mentoring 36 boys on their Trail to Eagle, served as International Commissioner on SHAC Board and was awarded the Silver Beaver and Paisano Awards.

Karen feels she has been blessed with the opportunities she has been given to serve others and that her MS is a reminder to SLOW DOWN – God is in charge.