



## Diane Ruth O'Key

June 6, 1949 - February 3, 2026

Wellford, SC -- Diane Ruth O'Key passed away surrounded by love on February 3, 2026. She was the daughter of the late Edward George and Ruth Schultz Brower and the loving wife of Dennis O'Key.

Diane shared a lifelong love story with her husband; beginning as high school sweethearts, they were married for 55 years. They built a life rooted in devotion, laughter, and deep friendship. Together, they made every house a home and embraced nature, water, snow, traveling and an active life well lived. Diane can be described as a woman with a big heart and a generous spirit, she had a remarkable gift for remembering people and every detail about their lives, their stories, and what mattered to them. That attentiveness made everyone around her feel seen and valued.

Diane earned a master's degree in English from Georgian Court University and was recognized for her academic excellence when she co-authored a research paper that received an award presented in the Rose Garden by President George H. W. Bush; an honor she carried with humility and pride. She was a high school English teacher for 20 years, and her impact on students was profound. She was beloved by generations of learners who were shaped not only by her knowledge of literature and language, but by her belief in their potential. Teaching was not just her profession; it was her calling.

Diane truly had a way with words and took great pride in being a published author. Her novels include *Cherish the Knight*, a 15th-century historical work inspired by her travels and studies in Europe, and *Beyond Words*, a

contemporary love story set in the mountains of North Carolina. Her writing reflected her curiosity, her romantic spirit, and her deep understanding of the human heart.

She loved skiing, on snow or water, and she believed in staying physically strong and mentally sharp. Though small in stature, Diane was truly tiny but mighty. She was a force of warmth, intelligence, and quiet strength. Diane will be remembered as a devoted wife, an extraordinary teacher, a gifted writer, and a woman whose words, and kindness, will continue to echo in the lives she touched.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by her son, Colin O'Key and his wife, Jennifer; sister, Marilynne Wasielewski; brothers, Joe Brower and John Brower; niece; Kimberly Ptaszkiewicz; nephews, Brian O'Key and Sean O'Key; and her sister-in-law, Sandy O'Key.

She is preceded in death by her brother-in-law, Charles O'Key

The family will receive friends on Saturday, February 14, 2026 from 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM at Living Waters Funeral Home & Crematory. A Celebration of Life will begin at 1:00 PM and lunch will be served immediately following the service.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Children's Home Society of America.

# Previous Events

## Receiving Friends

FEB 14. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Living Waters Funeral Home and Crematory  
529 Spartanburg Hwy. S./P. O. Box 758  
Lyman, SC

## Celebration of Life

FEB 14. 1:00 PM (ET)

Living Waters Funeral Home and Crematory  
529 Spartanburg Hwy. S./P. O. Box 758  
Lyman, SC

# Tribute Wall

DP

“Diane was a warm, truly good hearted person, and a loving friend to our family for many years. Our families shared many good times over the years. To know Diane was a gift and a blessing. For me, she was the sister I never had, a genuine friend who was always there to offer help and support whenever you needed it. Diane will be truly missed by so many who were lucky enough to know her and call her “friend.” Rest in Heavenly peace Diane 🙏 We love you, Dee Pomarico & family ❤️

Dee Pomarico - February 14 at 06:40 AM

JF

“Jeff and Amy Haston and family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Diane Ruth O'Key.



Jeff and Amy Haston and family - February 13 at 04:36 PM

JF

“Jeff and Amy Haston and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Diane Ruth O'Key.

Jeff and Amy Haston and family - February 13 at 04:36 PM

JF

“ *Diane was truly beautiful, both inside and out. She had a gentle spirit and a remarkable way of seeing the good in everyone she met. Never one to speak unkindly, she lifted others up with her words and her presence. I will always remember her as softhearted, gracious, and endlessly sweet.*

*The world is brighter because Diane was in it. Her kindness touched countless lives, and her accomplishments reflected the generous heart she carried wherever she went. To know her was a gift; to be her friend was an even greater blessing. She leaves behind a legacy of love that will continue to inspire all of us who were fortunate enough to walk alongside her.*

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**Jim & Ro Farnsworth** - February 12 at 09:15 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Diane Ruth O'Key.*



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February 09 at 09:06 PM

TB

“ *The Wild Aces Lunch Bunch planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Diane Ruth O'Key.*

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**The Wild Aces Lunch Bunch** - February 09 at 09:06 PM

BL

“ Bob Lani purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Diane Ruth O'Key.



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**Bob Lani** - February 08 at 04:41 PM

BL

“ Bob Lani planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Diane Ruth O'Key.

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**Bob Lani** - February 08 at 04:41 PM

RS

“ DIANE WAS A KIND GOOD HEARTED PERSON THAT WAS LOVED BY EVERYONE AND A GOOD FRIEND TO ALL. SHE WILL TRULY BE MISSED. RON SCOINI AND FAMILY

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**RON SCOINI** - February 07 at 09:45 AM

JO

“ You were the best mother-in-law in the world. Such a kind and generous person. We will all miss you greatly, mom. We love you so much.

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**Jenny O'Key** - February 06 at 08:46 PM