



## Karleen Middleton Quinn Murphy

July 23, 2017

Karleen Middleton Quin Murphy, PhD, died July 23rd, 2017 after a long battle with dementia and succumbing to complications of multiple myeloma, an incurable cancer. She was born in Montego Bay Jamaica, grew up in Kingston Jamaica where she was an aspiring ballerina, and top scholar during primary and secondary education. She attended Sir George Williams University for undergraduate studies and McGill University for graduate studies in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. She moved to Toledo after marriage and began her PhD studies at U Michigan however transferred to University of Toledo after birth of first two children. After completing her PhD at the University of Toledo, she joined the UT faculty of English, and taught many writing and literature courses for almost 30 years. She was naturalized, becoming a US citizen, and was asked to be the keynote speaker at the ceremony. She was a voracious and eclectic reader and dedicated her life to teaching in and beyond the classroom. She was a diverse scholar; a member of the NW Ohio's Writer's Forum, Poet's Society, and an accomplished/published writer of poems, critique articles, and romance novels. She was active in the community serving on the board of mental health organizations, and a literary consultant to many, including mayoral campaigns. She was an avid gardener; with her green thumb she grew a vast assortment of flowers and tropical fruit bearing trees (orange/avocado). She supported the Arts including Toledo Ballet and Toledo Symphony. She will be missed by all whose lives she touched and inspired. She is survived by her children, Robert Farley Murphy, Laura A M

Murphy MD, Jonathan Phillip Murphy, Ian Douglas (Colleen) Murphy, sister Alice McNay, childhood best friends Alison Hodge and Jeane Hageman, and grandchildren Evan, Kristin, Catherine, Erin, and Quin. In lieu of Flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to The University of Toledo Foundation (designation of choice).

# Tribute Wall

SS

“ It was my privilege to work with Karleen at The University of Toledo, first as a new graduate teaching assistant, and then later as a Lecturer in English Department. I admired and learned from Karleen's dedication and unflagging attention to scholarship in teaching her undergraduate writing and literature students. She was demanding but nurturing at the same time. She was intelligent, witty, kind, had a fabulous sense of humor, and worked tirelessly to promote the highest achievement in her classroom. Karleen was one of a kind, and I am saddened to hear of her passing. I remember her fondly.

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**Suzanne Smith** - August 02, 2017 at 08:45 PM

JC

“ Laura,  
Please accept our condolences for the loss of your mother. We are so sorry for your loss. We sympathize with all you are feelings and hope you find pease in her passing.  
With love,  
John and Jill

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**John Chudzinski** - July 30, 2017 at 08:11 PM