



# **Karen Rebecca Raasch**

MAY 29, 1931 - OCT 28, 2014

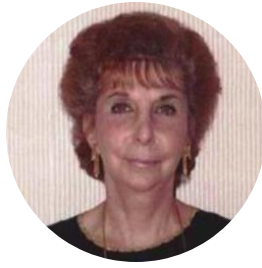


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## **Karen Rebecca Raasch**

MAY 29, 1931 - OCT 28, 2014

**R**AASCH, Karen Rebecca

Resident of Sacramento, CA passed away October 28, 2014 at the age of 83.

Karen was born May, 29, 1931 in Alameda, CA to Clarence Boehmer and Judith Boehmer (nee Melnetsky).

Prior to retirement, Karen was a professional interior decorator and furniture store owner

in Santa Rosa, CA.

Karen was active for AARP and a major advocate for the animal rights movement.

“Her passion for animals was visible in her legislative work in Sacramento. She campaigned for legislation—that became law—establishing that people living in California’s 50,000 associations have the right to keep a pet, especially one that is an emotional support animal”. “Her legislation was the basis for the appellate ruling (Elibiari v Auburn Woods Association, 2004) creating the principle that emotional support animals are as vital to mental well-being as a service animal is crucial to physical

well-being. The ruling impacted for the good countless seniors and disabled throughout

California who rely on a beloved pet for emotional support. The homeowners who brought this case into the California courts were both disabled. The Auburn Woods decision would not have been possible except for Karen’s bill. To get it signed into law,

she took on the well-organized homeowner association industry, but she was fearless —

and tenacious—during the fight”. Written by Marjorie Murray, President, Center for California Homeowners Association Law.

“A great loss, this, for animals and Karen’s many friends alike. Karen and her late



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husband, Everett, were pillars of the California animal protection movement for many years, both under the banner of the own organization, the California Federation for Animal Legislation, and as members of the board of Paw PAC, the California legislative voting chart. Karen and Everett spent countless hours working the halls of the Capital over the years. Always meticulously dressed and coiffed, Karen's low-key and gentle approach to the legislative process played no small part in the passage of many of the animal welfare laws now on the California books. She worked closely with Rosa Lemberg, Beverlee McGrath, and the late Virginia Handley, treasures all. A major focus for Karen was the issue of pets in housing, and concerns for the elderly. Karen was much loved and will be sorely missed by all who knew her, both as a tireless advocate for the animals, and as a great friend. She truly made a difference, and for that we are all grateful. R.I.P., Karen, save us an aisle seat, hey to Everett". Written by Eric Mills, coordinator for ACTION FOR ANIMALS.

Karen was preceded in death by her husband, Everett C. Raasch, and sister, Zona R. Stroud.

Karen is survived by her daughter, Loretta A. Mery, of Arcata, CA; granddaughters, Mery Apple (one son); Sophia Paulekas and step-children Jerry (Rollien) Raasch, Edith Pixley, Jim Raasch, and Irene (Eric Cummins).

A private gathering will be held in Karen's honor.



## Obituary

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In lieu of flowers, please make donations to:

Action for Animals

P.O. Box 20184

Oakland, CA 94620

Second Chance

P.O. Box 95437

Fort Bragg, CA 95473

Dogworks Canine Rescue

149 Briarwood Drive

Vacaville, CA 95688

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**Shelly Irving** posted:

Lit a candle in memory of Karen Rebecca Raasch

April 19 at 8:39 AM



# **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Karen by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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