



**2022  
LEGACY  
INDUCTEE**



# Karen Putman

**Legacy, Pitmaster, Humanitarian, Educator, Author**

Karen Putman started her life in BBQ 1984 and continued to give back to the world of BBQ until her passing in 2011.

She was the first woman Executive Chef in the Kansas City Chef's Association, one of the founding members of the Kansas City BBQ Society and the first Executive Chef to work on a gambling boat in Kansas City. Additionally, she was the Executive Chef at Arrowhead stadium for the Chiefs and later became Executive Chef at St. Joseph Health Center in south Kansas City taking on a whole new aspect in the culinary world in Healthcare.

During all of this she was a mentor to hundreds of culinary Chef Apprentices through the Johnson County Community College Culinary program. Karen was encouraged to enter a BBQ contest in 1984 and did well and was hooked on it for the rest of her life.

As one of the first females in competition barbecue in the area, Karen made sure to make a name for herself. Because of that she was dubbed "The Flower amongst men" and was called The flower amongst the flame which led her to call her BBQ team "Flower of the Flames". Being the pioneer she was she started a line of BBQ Sauce and Rubs being one of the first to have a fruit infused BBQ Sauce which became her signature sauce, Flower of the Flames Raspberry BBQ Sauce. Karen entered and won a lot of recipe contests which inspired her to write her BBQ Recipe book.

Karen has contributed back to the BBQ world by being a mentor, a teacher, and a cheerleader for everyone in BBQ. Many teams got their start by learning from Karen and venturing out on their own. Many teams had the ability to ask any questions they may have had about BBQ. Karen was always the first to raise her hand at cook's meetings to help any new teams at a Contest. She always said yes if someone wanted to shadow her at a Contest to learn what to do and not to do, always making sure they were involved to help in their learning process.

Her legacy lives on as a great Chef, great Pitmaster and great humanitarian.