

Carolyn Schoenau, age 86 of Gainesville, FL passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, February 5, 2019. Carolyn was born in Gainesville on October 26, 1932 to Horace Slaton and Velma Williams Slaton. She is survived by her loving and devoted husband of 55 years, Ronald H. Schoenau, and sons, Michael Yeilding, Steven Bret Yeilding, Gregory Bennett (Joey Sequeira) Yeilding, grandchildren Casey (Tim) Pelfrey, Katherine Yeilding, Kevin Yeilding, and great grandson Gabriel Pelfrey, all in California, sister-in-law Margerita Schoenau, and many loyal friends and extended families.

She had a long and distinguished career, winning many awards at the University of Florida Department of Anesthesiology where she was instrumental in establishing the administrative section of the department. After 29 years she retired in 1993 as Business Manager. She was focused, goal oriented, smiling, loyal, non-judgemental, vivacious, always a lady, and an avid Gator fan. Ron and Carolyn's homes were always open to special friends.

Carolyn's love besides Ron and family was bridge. She was a member of the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) since 1959, attaining the rank of Life Master (LM) in 1965. At the time of her death, Carolyn had been a LM longer than only one other person in North Central Florida. Over the years, Carolyn won major events at a number of regional tournaments in the Southeastern US. Carolyn was the dedicated manager of Gatorbridge which met weekly on Tuesday afternoons for 18 years.

Joined by her husband Ron, Carolyn was an avid bromeliad enthusiast. They joined the Bromeliad Society International (BSI) in 1975 and enrolled in judging school two years later, receiving their certifications as Internationally Accredited Judges at the World Conference in 1982. They participated in planning and headed major committees for World Bromeliad Conferences over many years. Carolyn served BSI in several capacities including Membership Secretary, member of the board of directors, Affiliated Shows Chair. They were members of several local bromeliad societies including Orlando, Seminole, Tampa, Daytona and Gainesville, devoting their energies almost exclusively to the local society in recent years.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held at 1:00 pm on Saturday, March 9, 2019, at Southwest United Methodist Church, 2400 SW Williston Road, Gainesville, FL 32608. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Gainesville Bromeliad Society, c/o 5915 SW 13th St, Gainesville, FL 32608, or Gainesville Bridge Club, 4225 NW 34th St, Gainesville, FL 32605

Arrangements are in the care of Milam Funeral and Cremation Services, 311 South Main Street, Gainesville, FL 32601 (352) 376-5361. www.milamfh.com.