



## Barbara Elspeth Cooney Lenehan Kuersteiner

December 3, 1929 - December 6, 2025

On Dec. 6th Barbara Elspeth Cooney Lenehan Kuersteiner died in Tallahassee in their family home just three days after her 96th birthday. She and her husband, retired Navy Judge Advocate Richard Kuersteiner, had been married 53 years. As a young girl her family moved from Boston to nearby Waban, MA where she and her seven siblings grew up.

After graduating from Regis College in Weston, MA Barbara was selected for a one-year VA internship as a Dietitian and subsequently worked as a Registered VA Dietitian for another 15 years. She managed the hospital diets of patients at various VA facilities including some that had 1500 beds. Later she was a member of a team of three Harvard physicians studying cardiovascular disease and she was a coauthor of published articles by their team. While attending Boston College Law School she met and married a fellow law student and they had two children, Jolie and Tom. Some years later the marriage ended in divorce, and she later married Richard Kuersteiner. They lived in Hillsborough, CA for 53 years. In addition to her duties as a mother and homemaker, Barbara also worked as a contracting officer for the Navy and later for Lockheed before returning to Dick's hometown, Tallahassee, for the last three years.

Barbara loved to read, cook, take walks with her family and German Shepard, garden, swim, go for rides around the countryside and to Lake Tahoe, travel,

play her piano, and watch football and baseball games. In summary, she had an amazing zest for life.

Barbara's parents were Bernard Patrick Cooney and Anna Phinn Cooney and she had seven siblings. Only two siblings are survived by her, brother Bernard Cooney and sister Mary Slot. Daughter Jolie Hellings and her husband, Carl, and their two grown sons, Christopher and Sam, live in Bellevue, WA. Barbara also has numerous nieces and nephews and in-laws.

A funeral is planned for this Friday, Dec. 12th, at Bevis Funeral Home at 200 John Knox Road, Tallahassee. Visitation will be at 1:30 pm followed by a funeral at 2. Burial will follow at the family plot at Oakland Cemetery followed by an invitation for everyone to go to their home for refreshments.

Dayne Parker of Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193 or [www.bevisfh.com](http://www.bevisfh.com)) is assisting the Kuersteiner family with their arrangements.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 12. 1:30 PM (ET)

Bevis Funeral Home & Crematory  
200 John Knox Rd  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
(850) 385-2193

## Funeral Service

DEC 12. 2:00 PM (ET)

Bevis Funeral Home & Crematory  
200 John Knox Rd  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
(850) 385-2193

## Committal Service

DEC 12. 3:00 PM (ET)

Oakland Cemetery  
838 N Bronough St  
Tallahassee, FL 32303