



Carolyn S. Ward

April 28, 1939 - May 5, 2026

Carolyn Sanders Ward passed away peacefully on May 5, 2026, in Tallahassee, at the age of 87.

Born in Sarasota in 1939, she had just celebrated her birthday. She was raised in Fort Myers and

graduated from Fort Myers High School in 1957. She continued her education at Wesleyan

College before transferring to the University of Florida, where she earned her degree in 1961.

In 1962, Carolyn married her beloved husband of 42 years, James A. V. Ward Jr, together, they

embraced the life of a military family, and Carolyn devoted more than 30 years to supporting her

husband's service in the U.S. Army while raising their children. During those years, she became

a dedicated volunteer, generously giving her time to causes close to her heart, including the

American Red Cross and the National Scoliosis Foundation, as well as countless school and

community activities. She cherished the experiences and friendships that came with military life

and welcomed each new adventure with enthusiasm.

Carolyn was also a talented freelance writer who captured her life experiences

with wit and warmth. She wrote articles reflecting on her years as an Army wife and her travels, often sharing humorous insights that resonated with readers. Her annual Christmas letter became a beloved tradition among family and friends—a lively chronicle of the year's highlights, filled with storytelling, humor, and heartfelt reflections. Following retirement, Carolyn and Jim settled in Tallahassee, where she quickly became an active and beloved member of the community. A woman of deep and abiding Christian faith, Carolyn found great joy, purpose, and fellowship through her involvement with Celebration Baptist Church. Her church was central to her life, providing a foundation of faith, meaningful friendships, and opportunities to serve others. She also volunteered at HCA Florida Capital Hospital and with the American Cancer Society, continuing her lifelong commitment to helping those around her. Carolyn was a devoted fan of the Florida Gators and rarely missed a game, whether in person or on television. She loved traveling, both across the United States and abroad, always looking forward to her next journey. Known for her warmth and genuine interest in others, she had a remarkable ability to connect with everyone she met. She was preceded in death by her parents, John Loam Sanders Jr. and Dorothy Eugenia Muecke, and by her husband, Jim. She is survived by her sister, Dorothy Love; her

children, Jim Ward III

(Anna) and Wendy Calle (Teo); seven grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and three great great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at Celebration Baptist

Church in Tallahassee, with a reception to follow. She will be laid to rest beside her husband at

Florida National Cemetery on May 13.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made in her name to the American Cancer

Society. Todd Wahlquist is assisting the family with their arrangements (850-385-2193 or www.bevisfh.com).

Cemetery Details

Florida National Cemetery

6502 SW 102nd Avenue
Bushnell, FL 33513

Previous Events

Memorial Celebration

MAY 9. 2:00 PM (ET)

Celebration Baptist Church
3300 Shamrock East
Tallahassee, FL 32309

Tribute Wall



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Carolyn S. Ward.* ”



May 08 at 02:42 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Carolyn S. Ward.* ”



May 08 at 12:57 PM