



JoAnn Newton Boatright

February 3, 1939 - April 13, 2022

JoAnn Newton Boatright, age 83, entered into eternal rest on April 13, 2022, at home after a brief illness. She was born in St. Petersburg, Florida and grew up in Largo, FL. JoAnn had resided in Tallahassee since 1984.

Like her parents and brothers, JoAnn was sent to the Christian high school division of Lee College in Cleveland, Tennessee, where she graduated as the class Salutatorian in 1956. At Lee, she met and married her first husband, Charles Kirkland, also a native Floridian. The young couple moved back to Gainesville, Florida, where he studied architecture. JoAnn became a widow at age 22 when Charles was tragically killed in an accident.

JoAnn returned back to Largo to work and enroll in college. She then transferred to Florida State University (FSU) where she graduated in 1966 with a degree in Home Economics. Her professional career began when she became the Suwannee County Home Extension Agent. In this role, she published a weekly newspaper article, "Timely Tips & Trends in Homemaking" and had a weekly radio program. In Live Oak, she met Spessard Boatright, who was the elected Suwannee County School Superintendent, and they married on June 1, 1968. JoAnn and Spessard were active in their church, First Presbyterian, and became parents to daughters Rebecca in 1970 and Brenda in 1972. JoAnn's primary focus was on being a wife and mother and she briefly taught high school. JoAnn returned to work when the girls left for

college at the University of Florida (UF). She again applied her degree and became a Food and Nutrition Specialist for the Florida Department of Health. For almost 30 years, JoAnn assumed the additional duties of being a supportive military wife which allowed Spessard to retire from the Florida National Guard as a Brigadier General.

JoAnn and Spessard traveled extensively to over 50 countries in 6 continents. JoAnn dearly loved her role as an active grandmother to her two grandsons, Cooper and Chandler Heath, enjoying many fun trips with them throughout the U.S. and abroad. JoAnn was a member of Thomasville Road Baptist Church and cherished her Sunday School class and church family. Also, she enjoyed genealogy and served as the 1st Vice Regent for the Caroline Brevard Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Recording Secretary for the Colonial Dames. JoAnn's Christian faith and family were most important to her!

Survivors include her husband of 53 years, Spessard Boatright; two daughters Rebecca Boatright Heath and her husband Scott of Atlanta, Brenda Boatright of Atlanta, grandsons Cooper and Chandler Heath; brother Bobby Newton and his wife Joyce; sister-in-law Sybil Newton along with many beloved nieces and nephews.

On Thursday, April 21, 2022, the family will receive friends from 1:00 until 2:00 p.m., at Bevis Funeral Home, with funeral services to follow. The service will be available to view live online at <https://www.bevisfh.com>. To watch, click on the word Obituaries at the top of the homepage, then click on the name of your loved one, and then the green Photos and Videos tab. Staff members will be available to answer questions or help with technical issues at (850) 385-2193. Burial will be at MeadowWood Memorial Park. Susie Mozolic of Bevis Funeral Home is assisting the family with their arrangements. (www.bevisfh.com 850-385-2193)

Cemetery Details

MeadowWood Memorial Park

700 Timberlane Rd.
Tallahassee, FL 32312

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 21. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

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

Funeral Service

APR 21. 2:00 PM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Bevis Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of JoAnn Newton Boatright*



Bevis Funeral Home - April 21, 2022 at 01:32 PM

DM

*Beautiful service. Thank you for making it possible to be there via Tech.
We love you all, David, Robin and Alice.*

David McMullen - April 21, 2022 at 02:18 PM

DH

“ *I remember JoAnn showing up occasionally Thru out my National Guard career: the events ranged from armory events thru an event or two in the woods during the two-week annual training in the woods of Camp Blanding. She was always very cordial! I appreciate her!*

Donna Hicks - April 21, 2022 at 07:20 PM

DB



“ *What a beautiful service to honour and celebrate JoAnn Boatright's life dedicated to her family, friends and service to God. She so beautifully reflected the image of her Creator and truly exemplified Proverbs 31 -- pursuing the wisdom of God, focusing on God's truth, and honoring God in all that she did (with a smile). You always felt a smile in your heart after spending time in her presence. A true gift.*

I take comfort in God's promise of her reward of eternal life with Him and JoAnn receiving her Crown of Glory.

*In Loving Memory,
Dallas Heath Bowman
Atlanta, GA*

Dallas Bowman - April 21, 2022 at 03:07 PM

DE

“ *God Bless JoAnns Friends and Family during these very difficult times. JoAnn was a Beautiful Southern woman who made everyone feel welcome and special. JoAnn loved her family deeply and she will greatly be missed. Sending lots of love and prayers from Charleston, SC  *

Much Love - Dana Heath and Babs Heath Echtenkamp

Dana Heath and Babs Heath Echtenkamp - April 21, 2022 at 12:41 PM

RM

“ *Aunt JoAnn holds a special place in our hearts and family. I will always remember she had a smile on her face ad was happy. She loved her family. I am so thankful that she was a part of our family. We will always love and miss her. May the Lord strengthen and comfort you all. God Bless*

Robin McMullen - April 20, 2022 at 01:06 PM

TF

“ *The Childers & Grantham Families purchased the Lavender Love Bouquet for the family of JoAnn Newton Boatright.*



The Childers & Grantham Families - April 19, 2022 at 07:40 PM

SB

“ *JoAnn was a lovely Southern Lady, kind to all. Very talented and smart. We shall miss her forever, till we meet again. Sue C Bratton*

Sue Bratton - April 18, 2022 at 07:43 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of JoAnn Newton Boatright.*



April 18, 2022 at 07:21 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of JoAnn Newton Boatright.*



April 18, 2022 at 03:31 PM



“ *This Lady Is/was a very fine person. She was married into the greatest family I have ever known. I love them all.*

David McMullen

David McMullen - April 17, 2022 at 04:49 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of JoAnn Newton Boatright.*



April 15, 2022 at 06:24 PM