



Carol Grady Nelson

May 15, 1944 - September 28, 2025

Carol Grady Nelson of Land O' Lakes, Florida, passed away peacefully on September 28, 2025, in Tampa.

Born on May 15, 1944, in Birmingham, Alabama, Carol was the beloved daughter of the late Harvey Grady and Gladys Lyons Grady of Birmingham, Alabama. She graduated from Birmingham-Southern College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology and worked as a librarian, though her greatest joy came as a devoted stay-at-home mother to her children, Marcus and Ashley.

Carol married the love of her life, William C. "Bill" Nelson, on June 3, 1966, and together they built a beautiful life filled with love, laughter, and cherished memories. Their journey took them from Birmingham to Sarasota, where they lived for 15 years, before settling in Land O' Lakes in 2006. Bill preceded her in death in 2009.

A member of Canterbury United Methodist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, and a sister of Alpha Chi Omega, Carol was known for her warm spirit, generous heart, intelligence, and quick wit. An accomplished seamstress, she loved sewing and smocking dresses and baby clothes for her grandbabies. She was also a trivia enthusiast with a passion for knowledge and a competitive spirit that won many competitions. Carol also had a deep love for her pets. Her dogs were cherished members of her family.

Carol is survived by her children, Marcus Nelson (Maria) of Boca Raton, and Ashley Swink (Christopher) of Tampa; and her five grandchildren, Grady, Lilah, and Elise Nelson, and Riley and Addison Swink.

Visitation will be held Thursday, October 2, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at Toale Brothers Funeral Home in Sarasota, with burial to follow at 11:30am at Sarasota National Cemetery, where she will be laid to rest next to her husband.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to your local humane society.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 2. 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Toale Brothers Funeral Home & Crematory - Colonial Chapel
40 N. Orange Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34236
(941) 955-4171
info@toalebrothers.com
<https://www.toalebrothers.com/>

Committal Service

OCT 2. 11:30 AM (ET)

Sarasota National Cemetery
9810 State Rd 72
Sarasota, FL 34241
(941) 922-7200

Tribute Wall



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Carol Grady Nelson.

September 30, 2025 at 12:14 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Carol Grady Nelson.



September 30, 2025 at 12:14 PM