

Carolyn Counts Furcolow was born on February 15, 1945 and died on August 7, 2019. She was a native of Kosciusko, Mississippi, and moved to Tallahassee, Florida in 1952. She was the oldest of three girls and always considered herself the boss. She attended Leon High School and was involved in Chez Nous French Club, Thespian, and participated in Tri Hi Y, a service organization. She was an honor student who was the recipient of a State Teaching Scholarship. Carolyn enjoyed lifelong friendships with the Class of 1963. They recently celebrated their 55th high school reunion, which she was thrilled to help organize. She graduated from Florida State University and was a Seminole fan her entire life.

As an active young mom to Brian and Shannon, she paved the way to a career with jobs such as pre-school teacher and secretarial positions. In 1981, Carolyn moved to Canton, Ohio and in 1983, met and married the love of her life, Edward Furcolow. They moved to Alliance where they joined the BPO Elks. Her natural leadership skills prompted her to serve as President, Vice-President and Trustee of the Lady Elks Auxiliary, and she served on many committees. She also participated in Fractured Follies, where she danced and sang to raise funds for the Alliance Hospital.

She and Ed took ballroom dancing classes and participated in local competitions. They also loved to tee it up and spent many weekends golfing with their friends,

The Very Mixed Up Couples Golf League. As a hobby, Carolyn started Miss Caroline's Afternoon Teas. The forever loving party planner, she hosted countless tea parties with various themes.

Professionally, she started working as a paralegal at Day Ketterer Raley Wright & Rybolt. That job led her to Diebold Nixdorf where she was the Real Estate Manager. In 1990, her talents were noticed by New America Network (NAI, Inc.) who hired her as Director of Corporate Services. She was quickly promoted to Vice President of Corporate Services where she managed the real estate portfolio of many clients, including Diebold Nixdorf, Bridgestone/Firestone, Keebler, Carter Lumber and Roadway. She managed the buying, selling and leasing of properties for her clients through NAI's Nationwide network of commercial real estate brokers. She was indeed a pioneer in the business world and a force to be reckoned with.

In 1998, she was recruited by Coldwell Banker Commercial Real Estate to join their organization as Vice President of Corporate Services. She was an integral part of the Corporate Services training of all of Coldwell Banker Commercial's real estate brokers nationwide. After moving back to Tallahassee, Florida in 2001, Carolyn worked at RE/MAX Professionals Realty and Keller Williams selling residential properties.

Inspired by former President Jimmy Carter, Carolyn served Big Bend Habitat for Humanity in Tallahassee, Florida, by assisting with property acquisition, mortgage lending and fundraising activities. Her professional experiences and expertise lent themselves to the overall success of the organization, as well as the completion of significant affordable housing developments throughout Leon and Gadsden counties. Carolyn touched the lives of hundreds of Habitat for Humanity family members and volunteers. Her special mark upon the entire Big Bend affordable housing community endures as her legacy of helping others in need.

Carolyn, an ongoing trend-setter, heard rumors about a new group for women over 50. It was called the Red Hat Society, and she immediately decided to start her own chapter. Together with her sisters, Donna Scott and Kaye Trice, they were the initial founders and charter members of The Tallahassee Lassies. Her entire wardrobe transformed to red and purple clothes, hats and glitzy jewelry. Carolyn served as the “Queen” for many years. When she relocated back to Ohio, she joined the Quirky Red Hatters and served as Vice President. She loved the organization and the many friendships that were formed.

Carolyn was a woman with many talents and interests. She could sing and play the piano, and her musical talents were only outshined by her creativity and crafting. If she saw it, she could recreate it herself. She was an avid and

competitive bridge player, and often played at the Cuyahoga Falls Women's Club, the Quirk and at the Stow-Munroe Falls Library. She was involved in Travel, Scrabble and Book Clubs. She had a flare for style and was a talented interior decorator. She volunteered her time and artistic eye to the Hower House by decorating a room for the last few holiday seasons.

She will be missed by her children, son Brian and his wife Missy Counts, and daughter Shannon and her husband Ralph Travise. Her grandchildren, Lauren, Brandon, Zack and Elliot will remember the smile, spirit, and contagious laugh of their Nana fondly. Her countless friends will always have a story or event that included Carolyn that will make them smile.

A celebration of her life is scheduled for Saturday, September 7th at the Sheraton Suites in Cuyahoga Falls. Friends and acquaintances are invited to attend from 2-5 pm.