



**Shirley Ann Spivey Blalock**

December 20, 1949 - September 18, 2025

Shirley Ann Spivey Blalock, 75, of Vestavia Hills, Alabama, passed away peacefully at home on the morning of September 18, 2025, following a nearly year-long battle with brain cancer. Her daughter Meghan Cori Blalock and son-in-common-law Joel Andrew Carreon Manalo were right by her side as she transitioned, while she was surrounded by her favorite flowers, the music she loved most, and treasured reminders of beloved family, friends, and pets.

Born on December 20, 1949, in Akron, Ohio, Shirley and family eventually relocated to Smyrna, Georgia, where she grew up one of three daughters to Warren Gamaliel and Ida Mae Spivey (née Tarr), along with her elder sister Lois Evelyn and younger sister Terry Lynn. She attended R.L. Osborne High School in Marietta, Georgia, followed by college at David Lipscomb College in Nashville, Tennessee.

Following college she worked in the Engineering department at Atlanta's Southern Bell/Western Electric Telephone Co. throughout the 1960s and '70s. It was there she met her late husband, Major General Abner Coy (AC) Blalock, Jr., who she married in the summer of 1978 in Alpharetta, Georgia. In 1979 they relocated to Birmingham, Alabama, where they bought the house they called home for the more than 44 years they were married.

Shirley and AC had one child, Meghan Cori Blalock, who grew up in Birmingham before attending college at the University of Mississippi, relocating to New York, New York to work in journalism, and eventually settling in Los Angeles, California with her partner Joel and their large crew of cats both domestic and stray.

A huge animal lover, Shirley got so much joy from getting to know Meghan and Joel's cats, watching hummingbirds feed and flit through her giant picture windows at home, and donating selflessly to a myriad of animal rights organizations all over the world. She was also a beloved cat mama to Rascal—the family's first feline when Meghan was a small child—and later Queenie and Gracie, all of whom she mothered dearly and who loved her in kind. Most recently, she enjoyed caring for two community cats she dubbed Goldie and Halo II—named after one of her grandcats—both of whom made an uncharacteristic 4am visit to her home the morning of her passing, as if to say thank you and bid her farewell.

Shirley also loved to garden and was an extremely voracious reader; her home in Birmingham is lined wall-to-wall with the books she read over the decades, most of them hardback as was her preference. She was a huge history buff with a bottomless appetite for historical documentaries and tomes. With AC, Meghan, and Joel, Shirley also enjoyed many a meal out, and rarely met a plate of raw oysters she didn't love. Known for her fearless independence and strong convictions, she will be profoundly missed by many.

Shirley will be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery alongside her late husband AC, who preceded her in death. Memorial services will be announced at a later date, likely to take place around her birthday and Christmas of this year. She is survived by her daughter, Meghan, and son-in-common-law Joel; her two sisters Lois Holder and Terry Love; her nieces Sonja Howard and Mandy Walden; and numerous great-nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, the family graciously encourages donations to Los Angeles-based cat rescue nonprofit Kitty Bungalow—an organization close to the hearts of Shirley, Meghan, and Joel—or any animal rights organization of your choosing. Thank you.