Obituary

Mariana C. Blain passed from this world at her home in Citrus Hills December 23, 2019, succumbing to a 8 ½ year long battle with brain cancer. She is survived by her husband of 49 years, James N. Blain, sons COL James, Jr. and David Blain, James, Jr.'s wife Tina, their four children, James III, Josephine, Anna, and Matthew, and her brothers James and Sloan Coleman. Mariana was born November 21, 1942 in Columbia, SC to Navy Lt. James P. Coleman and his wife, the former Mae T. Maner. She attended schools in several states because of her father's career, including high school in Hawaii and California, and graduated from South Carolina with a BA in education. She was a member of Delta Delta Delta, the DAR, and the Huguenot Society of South Carolina.

Mariana taught elementary school in Virginia prior to having children, and continued to work in Fairfax County, VA as an instructional aide until 2004, when she and her husband retired and moved to Inverness. Mariana was active in the Citrus County community until her illness diminished her capability. She worked as a volunteer in an elementary school, was a member of Citrus Hills Women's Club, Newcomers, and Citrus Four and More. She was an integral part of the flower guild at Shepherd of the Hills Episcopal Church, carrying on in the tradition of her talented mother, who did floral arrangements at Washington National Cathedral for 25 years. Mariana co-founded and played in two canasta groups and studied line dancing, among other pursuits in Citrus Hills.

Services will be arranged privately. The family wishes to thank the personnel of Vitas Hospice and All About Caring for helping to make her comfortable during her decline, and Dr. Gustavo Fonseca of Florida Cancer Specialists and his dedicated staff for their valiant efforts that helped prolong her life for several years, in the face of improbable odds. Donations to the American Cancer Society or Florida Cancer Specialists Foundation in her memory are requested in lieu of flowers and sympathy cards.