



## Evelyn Schlenker Freeland

October 17, 1927 - October 24, 2022

BILTMORE FOREST - Evelyn Schlenker Freeland, 95, of Biltmore Forest, NC passed into the LORD's presence on Monday, October 24, 2022.

Born in Long Beach, California, October 17, 1927, she was the daughter of Willard Ernst and Frances Reave Schlenker. The eldest of three children, Evelyn grew up in a loving Christian home. She was a graduate of Narbonne High School, Lomita, California, and also of Pacific Bible College ( now Azusa Pacific College), Azusa, CA where she completed a Bachelor of Religious Education Degree in 1955.

God's plan for Evelyn's life was realized from the start as one of her first working experiences was as a teller in a bank in San Pedro, the Los Angeles harbor area, where she was exposed to dealing with people in all walks of life. This led to her next position as secretary to the minister of San Gabriel Union Church, Dr. W.J. Hemphill of Asheville. North Carolina.

Seven years later she felt the need to change positions so she resigned and went on a trip to visit friends in Hawaii. Through a friend there, she met the man who was in Hawaii to set up a Billy Graham Crusade. He needed a secretary and Evelyn prayerfully accepted his offer to help support this evangelical outreach so thus began her sojourn with Dr. Graham's ministry.

Within a few short years of working with the Graham organization, Evelyn was invited to move east to Western North Carolina and become secretary to Dr. T.W. Wilson as well as to Ruth Bell Graham, Mr. Graham's wife. Evelyn's service to her LORD and the Grahams spanned over 42 years and for her included wonderful and meaningful friendships.

The first day in Montreat, NC she called the only person she knew in the area, Christine Hemphill, Dr. W.J. Hemphill's sister. Christine invited Evelyn to join her at the Asheville Bible Church the next day, and it was there that she met Don Freeland, a local accountant. Two years later, Don and Evelyn were married at the altar of the Asheville Bible Church.

Evelyn loved to travel with Don and had many enjoyable experiences as they explored Europe and the United Kingdom, either by themselves or with friends. She especially enjoyed visiting friends who lived in France and Spain as it enabled her to enjoy the local cultures. Of course there were trips back to California with Don on visits to family and friends. Evelyn also loved to read, to cook, and her hobbies included fine cross stitch, and scrapbooking. All of their journeys abroad and at home were beautifully chronicled in journals with words and pictures.

Evelyn is survived by her loving husband, Donald L. Freeland; a sister, Elizabeth Schlenker Esslinger of Whittier, CA; two nephews; Rolland Esslinger of LaHabra, CA and Dan Esslinger of Whittier, CA; a niece, Patricia F. Billings of Simpsonville, SC; and many great nieces and nephews.

A memorial service for all of her friends will be held Tuesday, November 1, 2022 at 2:00 PM at Morris Funeral Home Chapel, 304 Merrimon Ave, Asheville, NC 28801. The service will be conducted by the Rev. Patrick Leahy and Dr. David Bruce. Immediately following, there will be a graveside service at Calvary Episcopal Churchyard, 2840 Hendersonville Rd, Fletcher, NC.

Buncombe County no longer provides escorts to gravesites so please utilize GPS for directions to Calvary Episcopal Churchyard.

Memorial gifts in Evelyn's memory may be made to:

Asheville Bible Church  
234 Merrimon Avenue  
Asheville, NC 28801

~or~

Billy Graham Evangelistic Association  
1 Billy Graham Parkway  
Charlotte, NC 28201

# Cemetery Details

## Calvary Episcopal Churchyard

2840 Hendersonville Road  
Fletcher, NC 28732

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

NOV 1. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Chapel of Morris Funeral Home  
304 Merrimon Ave.  
Asheville, NC 28801  
(828) 252-1821  
[info@morrisfamilycare.com](mailto:info@morrisfamilycare.com)  
<http://morrisfamilycare.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Evelyn Schlenker Freeland*

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ *It was in February of 2008 that through David and Gerry Barnes we were introduced to Don and Evelyn Freeland. We were enjoying a short vacation in the US from the Netherlands. Don and Ev invited us to stay with them in their lovely home in Ashville. From the very first moment that we met they felt like family as they still do to this very day! Their warmth, their hospitality and their love for eachother and for Jesus was so tangible and has made an great impact on our lives. We've even copied their habit of putting photo's of loved ones in a basket in order to pick a photo each day and to pray for that particular person. We've returned to visit Don and Ev twice since 2008. The photo below was taken in 2019. It was always a joy to listen to Don and Ev's stories and undertakings. How we love them. Now Ev is celebrating in the presence of her Lord and Saviour whom she loved dearly. As much as she will be missed we know we will see eachother again. Until then we will hold her dear in our heart and pray for strength and comfort for you dearest Don. All our love. Armand and Jeannette Gimbrère, the Netherlands*



**Jeannette Gimbrère** - October 31, 2022 at 09:22 AM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Evelyn Schlenker Freeland.*



---

October 30, 2022 at 10:05 PM



“ *TO THE FAMILY OF DONALD L. FREELAND:*

*JUST WANTED TO SEND YOU ALL THIS SHORT NOTE TO LET YOU ALL KNOW THAT YOU ALL ARE ALWAYS IN MY THOUGHTS & IN MY PRAYERS EVERY DAY & ESPECIALLY DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME. MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL ALWAYS & KEEP YOU ALL IN HIS LOVING CARE. I HAVE ACTUALLY KNOWN BOTH DON & EVELYN FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS.*

*LOVE IN CHRIST, JEAN SHEAROUSE*

---

**JEAN SHEAROUSE** - October 29, 2022 at 04:00 PM



“ *May God comfort your hearts at this time. We are praying for the family. The Hoffman's*

---

**DH** - October 28, 2022 at 06:36 PM