



Sheila Ann Fomby Kehren

October 16, 1943 - February 11, 2026

Sheila was born in Abilene, Texas on October 6, 1943, the only child of Bessie Ann Langston Fomby and C. A. Fomby who owned a family farm near Ovalo and Tuscola, Texas. Her mother was a school teacher.

Sheila graduated from Jim Ned High School in Tuscola at the age of 15. Since she was too young to be admitted to a Texas university, she enrolled at the Meritorious Autonomous University of Puebla, Mexico, where she soon became fluent in Spanish. At age 16, she enrolled in the University of Texas at El Paso. After graduation, she became a NATO interpreter at Fort Blish military base in El Paso, where she met her husband Engelbert “Bert” Wolfgang Kehren, also a NATO interpreter for the German Luftwaffe. Sheila took to the German language and culture immediately and even chose to marry Bert in Germany, where they lived for several years.

The couple returned to the United States where they lived in El Paso, Houston, and later Dallas. In Dallas, they met Dave and Carolyn Cottle when the Kehrens bought a house next door to the Cottles. The two couples became best friends almost immediately. The Kehrens and the Cottles even vacationed in Europe together in 1975. When the Cottles moved to Florida in 1980, the Kehrens also moved there, and they all remained friends even after the Kehrens divorced in 1993.

Sheila bought a house in Eustis, Florida in March 2015 to be near her dear friends Carolyn and Dave Cottle. Unfortunately, a few months later she had a stroke which left the left side of her body paralyzed for the remainder of her life. She lived in Brookdale Lake Tavares assisted living until her death.

Sheila was best known for speaking six languages (English, German, Spanish, French, Italian, and Swedish). She also was one of the few non-lawyers who served as an Administrative Law Judge for the Texas Employment Commission. Ms. Kehren died in Tavares, Florida, aged 82, on February 11, 2026.

She was preceded in death by her parents and is survived by Dave and Carolyn Cottle of Tavares, Florida, and her former husband, Bert, now living in Palm City, Florida.

Her memory will live on the hearts of the many people who loved her.