Donn E. Byrne, Ph.D.

December 19, 1931 - August 10, 2014

Dr. Donn E. Byrne, 82, died at home on Sunday, August 10, 2014. Born in Austin, TX, he was the son of the late Bernard and Rebecca Singleton Byrne.

Donn graduated from Stanford University where he earned his Doctorate in Psychology. He taught for over forty years at Stanford, Purdue and SUNY Albany, among other institutions. Dr. Byrne was a social psychology researcher, and authored over thirty text books during his career. He enjoyed reading, writing, painting and music.

He was the father of Robin Byrne (Adam Thanz), Lindsey Byrne, Rebecka Kelley and the late Keven Byrne; grandfather of Teagan McLaughlin; brother of the late William Byrne.

Funeral services to be held Thursday, August 14, 2014 at 6:00 pm in McVeigh Funeral Home, 208 North Allen Street, Albany.

Relatives and friends are invited and may visit also on Thursday, 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the funeral home.

Those wishing to remember Dr. Byrne in a special way may send a contribution to Animal Shelter of Schoharie Valley, 304 Howes Caves Road, Howes Cave, NY 12092.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **14**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc.
208 N Allen St
Albany, NY 12206
(518) 489-0188
info@mcveighfuneralhome.com
http://www.McveighFuneralHome.com

Service

AUG **14**. 6:00 PM (ET)

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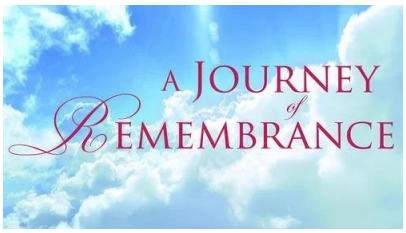
Tribute Wall

McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Donn E. Byrne, Ph.D.



McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. - August 12, 2014 at 03:06 PM

Donn E. Byrne, Ph.D.

October 08, 2023 at 09:24 PM

MW

My sincere condolences. May the words at Isaiah 25:8 bring you comfort during this difficult time " He will swallow up death forever, And the Sovereign Lord Jehovah will wipe away the tears from all faces."

Montana W. - December 28, 2015 at 06:55 PM

JN

I first met Donn in 1986, when I was considering a number of doctoral programs. Donn was Chair of the Psychology Department at, what was then, SUNY Albany. I let him know when I would be visiting the campus and he graciously arranged for me to meet with faculty and students and, to my surprise, invited me to lunch. I seemed to connect with Donn immediately and was overwhelmed by his generosity, easy manner, and encouragement. All of those attributes would be in evidence over the next four years as I completed my studies. He served as the chair of my dissertation committee and hooded me during the graduation ceremony—a moment that I will never forget. Donn was incredibly supportive throughout my tenure at Albany and I will always be grateful for his guidance, support, and friendship. In April 2002, I participated in the tribute to Donn held in Storrs, CT. The gathering involved many of Donn's colleagues, friends, and students and it was an opportunity to relive and celebrate his life and his accomplishments. I mention this now because one thing was evident at that event. Donn really made a difference in this world and touched so many lives in an extraordinary way. We are deeply saddened by his passing but he leaves behind a remarkable and enduring legacy.

Joel H. Neuman

Joel H. Neuman - August 17, 2014 at 06:16 PM

RB

I first met Donn when he came to give a talk at the University of South Carolina where I was a brand-new assistant professor. I knew and admired his work, so I was looking forward to his visit very much. I picked him up at the airport and since I had never seen him, I carried a large sign saying: '"Welcome Dr. Byrne." Our life-long friendship of forty-five years began at that moment because, Donn told me later that--believe it or not!--t I was the first person on his many visits to universities, to think of holding up such a sign. I liked him tremendously and we were in contact from that moment on. When he returned to Purdue, he started the wheels turning so that I could, perhaps, join the faculty there. That all worked out, and after a visit during the summer of 1970, I did, in fact, come to Purdue in the Fall of 1971. Working with Donn was truly a pleasure, and he was--and is--the finest colleague I have ever been privileged to have. He was always kind, considerate, and truly had a tremendous--and always positive--influence on my life. We remained close friends even when distance separated us, but by an amazing chain of events, I relocated to the Albany area, where I was able to see Donn often--although not as often as I wished. In 2009, Rebecca and I left for Oklahoma where I had accepted a senior position; but we kept in touch, speaking frequenetly on the phone. And as I have often remarked to my wife Rebecca: "The only thing I really miss from my years iin upstate New York, is Donn." I am very sad that I could not be with him in recent years and I feel his loss deeply. Some of the wounds life inflicts on us never fade entirely, and I will certainly miss Donn and hold warm memories of him and our times together for the remainder of my life. To say it once again: he was the finest human being I have ever been fortunate to know, and for me, the truest lifelong friend I have ever had.

Robert A. Baron

Robert A. Baron - August 17, 2014 at 03:54 PM

RH

To Donn's Family: I met Donn in 2002 at brunch with my soon to be husband, Robert Baron. We enjoyed a lovely brunch together and then I took a photo of the two of them for the upcoming edition of the Social text. Happily we were able to socialize ocasionally, and from those experiences I learned what an incredible wit Donn was. Everyone knewd he was smart and kind (who could dispute that?) but his wit often went under the radar. He had a low key delivery, which was so much a part of his charm. His love for his family was always uppermost in his thoughts. We grieved Keven and now we grieve Donn. My thoughts go out to you three "girls".

Rebecca Henry - August 17, 2014 at 03:25 PM

JN

To Donn's family, I was hired in the Department of Psychology to develop a mainstream Cognitive Psychology Ph.D. program here at UAlbany in 1988 when Donn was chair, and I found him to be generous, kind and forthright in all of his dealings with me. He worked hard to advocate for the requests I made for faculty lines to develop the aforementioned program. Most memorable to me was his dry wit which always made me smile and at times laugh heartily. He was a great chair with a fabulous sense of knowing exactly when to respond to or ignore requests from the upper administration and when he did respond of knowing exactly what to say such that it benefitted our faculty. He was an eminent researcher but most impressive to me was his wonderful writing ability and his decency as a human being. I have many fond memories of him. May he rest in peace. Jim Neely

Jim Neely - August 14, 2014 at 10:03 AM

DB

I arrived in Albany in the summer of 1979 when the University was in a period of substantial expansion and one of the most exciting developments around that time was the successful recruitment of Donn Byrne. Very quickly it became apparent to me that Donn was an extraordinary psychologist and individual and I recommended to all of my doctoral students studying human sexuality from a clinical perspective that they invite Donn to be on their dissertation committees. Donn always graciously agreed despite the pressures on his time and very calmly and in a very supportive manner would make extremely important suggestions and recommendations often from a more theoretical perspective. When the Dean asked me in 1984 if I thought Don would make a good chair of the department I answered that I thought he would make an extremely strong chair and that we were very fortunate that he was willing to do it. None of the faculty to my knowledge was disappointed during his five-year tenure. I thought so highly of Donn personally that I participated in his tributes upon his retirement even though I was not in his area of study in psychology, and I was not surprised to hear person after person speak to the substantial personal impact he had had on their careers and on their lives. While we did not keep in close touch after I relocated to Boston in 1996, Don has often been in my thoughts and has been an inspiration in the way I relate to my own students. He was blessed with a long, productive, and successful career and his memory and influence will live on.

Dave Barlow

David H Barlow - August 17, 2014 at 08:20 PM