



Barney Byard

October 16, 1926 - January 30, 2016

G. Barney Byard, 89, Topeka, passed away January 30, 2016.

He was born George Bernard Byard, Jr. on October 16, 1926, in Tulsa, Oklahoma to Eunice Loretta Cremin and George Bernard Byard, Sr. Barney lived in Bartlesville, Oklahoma and Ponca City, Oklahoma during his grade school years up to his junior year in high school. His family moved to Kansas City, Kansas where he attended Bishop Ward High School, graduating in 1943.

Barney served as a radioman for the United States Navy during World War II from 1944 to 1946 in the Pacific. He graduated from Rockhurst College in 1950, lettering five years in football. Many years later, he was inducted as a Rockhurst Golden Hawk Member and as a halfback in Rockhurst College Football Hall of Fame.

Barney served as a football coach and teacher at St. Agnes High School for two years during 1951 and 1952, one year at Redemptorist High School, both in Kansas City, Kansas and six years at Hayden High School in Topeka, Kansas from 1954 to 1959. Barney was a member of Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church since 1965.

Barney joined New York Life Insurance Company as a salesman on July 1,

1959. While working for New York Life, he obtained Chartered Life Underwriter designation, became a life-member of the Million Dollar Round Table, served on all chairs in the state of Kansas and locally (Topeka), as well as achieved status as a State Life Underwriter Life-Member of New York Life Councils.

Barney married Mary Dean Connor on June 20, 1953. He referred to her as “his best friend always” and said that she carried him through the years of their marriage. He said she was an inspiration and his ultimate help-mate. She survives.

Barney is survived by his siblings, Loretta Hamilton and Dick Byard (Kay). He was preceded in death by his brother, Bill Byard, (Rosemary) and brother-in-law, Ray Hamilton.

Barney and Mary Dean were blessed with five children: Barney Byard (Linda Cunningham), Dee Poe, Cheri Byard (Larry Edgington), Donna Gragson (John) and Barb Andres (Kent), as well as 12 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Barney is also survived by many loving cousins, nieces and nephews.

Family will greet friends from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614, where a parish rosary will be prayed at 7 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Saturday at Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church, with burial following at Mt. Calvary Cemetery.

Memorial contributions are suggested to Hayden Catholic High School, 401 SW Gage Blvd, Topeka KS 66606 or to Midland Care Hospice, 200 SW Frazier Circle, Topeka KS 66606.

Cemetery Details

Mount Calvary Cemetery

801 SW Westchester Rd
Topeka, KS 66606

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 5. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home
2801 SW Urish Road
Topeka, KS 66614
(785) 272-7888
info@kevinbrennanfamily.com

Rosary

FEB 5. 7:00 PM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home
2801 SW Urish Road
Topeka, KS 66614
(785) 272-7888
info@kevinbrennanfamily.com

Mass of Christian Burial

FEB 6. 10:00 AM (CT)

Most Pure Heart of Mary Church
3601 SW 17th Street
Topeka, KS 66604

Tribute Wall



“ *Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Barney Byard*



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - February 03, 2016 at 04:48 PM



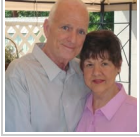
“ *Barney Byard*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM

EK

“ I was very sorry to hear of Barney's passing. I didn't realize it until I got a policy update today without his name on it. I did talk to Mary around the middle of January and she told me Barney was in the hospital and not doing well. I just kind of expected he would come back like he always did. I went to high school with Bill and knew Dick through him. I don't think I met Barney until I was going into the Navy in 1960 when I started doing business with him. Diane and I moved to Nevada, MO in 1971 Barney started coming here once a year to review everything and we always got in a round of golf. In later years he brought Dick with him and we still managed to get in a round of golf. Dick played also although I think that was probably the only time he played. Diane always enjoyed the visits as she was usually around the house and had lunch with us after the golf. Barney had a great sense of humor, as does Dick, and Diane and I both enjoyed the visits immensely. After each visit they would go on to Joplin, MO then to Oklahoma, I think to visit relatives. In recent years Barney was unable to continue the travel and golf but we still kept in touch. Barney was a terrific person, great family man, and wonderful to do business with. He will be sorely missed. Our sincere sympathy goes out to the family.
Ed and Diane Krall

Ed Krall - February 20, 2016 at 10:09 AM



“ *Sadly we send our deepest sympathies and prayers to the Byard family.*

As students we have fond memories of Barney as our teacher and Jerry's coach while at Hayden as well as his years as our insurance agent.

RIP

*Jerry Gannon
and
Daralyn Rosebaugh Gannon
Class of '59*

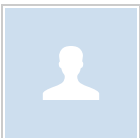
JerryDaralyn Gannon - February 05, 2016 at 05:10 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Barney Byard.*



February 04, 2016 at 07:19 PM



“ *Loving Grace was purchased for the family of Barney Byard.*



February 04, 2016 at 01:54 PM

MB

“ Prayers to your family . and May god give you Rest in Peace....Minesh Bhakta. ”

Minesh Bhakta - February 04, 2016 at 10:37 AM

AS

“ Prayers to your family. I've heard what an awesome man Barney was and what a legacy he left at NYL... amy sears.

Amy Sears - February 04, 2016 at 08:54 AM

JT

“ I was blessed to know Barney the past 15 years of his wonderful 57 years at New York Life. He was a gentleman that always had the right thing to say to bring joy to the room. One of my favorite memories is when he and Mary Dean sat crossed legged on my living room floor entertaining my kids and the young agent's in the room for hours. I was blessed to golf with him when he sunk a 40 foot put that over the years got longer and longer. He was a leader and one of the most respected men in his field.

We will miss him. The Tigert's prayers go out to Mary Dean and the whole family.

God Speed my friend.

Joe Tigert - February 03, 2016 at 05:03 PM

KB

“Cousin Barney, although not my cousin, but my boss, Pat Cremin's cousin, was such a wonderful man. This quote reminds me of him and I know the family has so many relatives there waiting to say!

"Just at the moment when someone says, "There he goes", there are other eyes watching him coming and other voices ready to take up the glad shout, "Here he comes!"

Kathy Bear - February 03, 2016 at 03:31 PM



“Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Barney Byard.



February 03, 2016 at 02:37 PM

BK

“I am grateful for the life of Mr. Byard. Thanks to his service and to the service of others in our armed forces, my family and I have been able to lead our lives in freedom and peace.

Bob in Overland Park, Kansas - February 03, 2016 at 11:29 AM

RS

“ *To the Byard Family,*

May God Bless you all during this time of loss. The prayers of the Hayden Catholic High School community are with you as we remember his contributions as a teacher, coach, parent, and grandparent to our school. it was always great to see him at our Grandparent's Day Mass.

God Bless

Rick Strecker - February 03, 2016 at 09:24 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Barney Byard.*



February 02, 2016 at 03:29 PM

JS

“ *If tears could build a stairway and memories a lane, I would walk right up to heaven and bring you home again! People like Barney should live forever*

Barney was a true "Prince" of a guy filled with knowledge that only many years in the business could produce .He will leave a spot within all of us that will never be replaced.

My heart goes out to his family. Rest in peace my friend....you leave this world with a job well done. - Jean Salsbery

Jean B. Salsbery - February 02, 2016 at 12:09 PM

DM

“ G. Barney Byard will always be remembered and respected as a true gentleman's gentleman. Kind, professional, friendly and just down right a person we all seek to know in life. As a 21 year old starting in the insurance business some 36 years ago I had the privelage of being introduced to you and being mentored by one of the industries truest professionals and skilled sales persons. You taught me the genuine importance of customer care - under promise and over delivery on good strong service to each and every client as all clients shared the same level of importance. We shared a common respect for our catholic faith - I was humbled and honored to be able to share communion with you as a Eucharistic minister during your recent hospital stays - I always walked away with so much more than I'm sure I gave you. Heaven receives yet another special person. Blessings to your beautiful/kind wife and to your children during this time - you will never be forgotten and will always be admired!!

With great appreciation and thanks - Dwight D Menke

Dwight D menke - February 01, 2016 at 08:41 PM

LB

“ Barney was an inspiration to me as I sought to run for the KAIFA chairs, he guided and inspired me. His leadership was awesome. Our prayers & thoughts are with at this time. He was a good man.
Larry & Tresa Buessing

LARRY BUESSING - February 01, 2016 at 05:28 PM

GD

“ Some time in the 50's. I started selling life insurance while going to Washburn, Joined and got active In Topeka Association of Life Underwriters. I got volunteered to be secretary and work my way through the chairs. Advice to me was to find a good agent and recruit them to join so I could "help them volunteer for secretary for Me when I was President'. I recruited Barney and the rest was history. Barney passed me and I followed along. Active in the state and national. We were in Tom Murphy's CLU class and started the Topeka Estate Planning Council in the 60's. Topeka was a great place to be in the Life Insurance Business. Barney and family were pillars of the community. AND we were all friends. It brings back such great memories. Barney, you will be missed. See you again one of these years. Say Hi to all those friends. Glen Davis

Glen Davis - February 01, 2016 at 05:24 PM

JH

“ A note to say that I had the opportunity to work with Barney for a number of years with the Kansas Association of Life Underwriters (now known as NAIFA KANSAS. His leadership was outstanding and he had such an interest in our organization. We learned from you and appreciated what you stood for to us . THANKS FOR BEING YOU! God Bless your family. Joe Hart

Joe Hart - February 01, 2016 at 04:29 PM

TC

“ The Fogarty Cousins purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Barney Byard.



The Fogarty Cousins - February 01, 2016 at 04:02 PM

LT

“ Liberty Mutual VRM Team purchased the Rose R emembrance for the family of Barney Byard.



Liberty Mutual VRM Team - February 01, 2016 at 01:56 PM

GT

“ I really enjoyed knowing Mr Byard and working with him @ NYLIC. He was honest and trustworthy. Mr Byard loved his business and clients and always provided great service to them. He loved Mary Dean and his family beyond words and often spoke of his love and fondness for them. Each time that we visited he brought a smile to my face. He will be missed greatly by ALL who were lucky enough to have known him.

Glenn Templeton - February 01, 2016 at 01:48 PM

PC

“ Barney was a great guy--my oldest and most revered cousin. I always felt that we were more like brothers--he was a wonderful joke teller, great friend and outstanding mentor. I will miss you "Uncle" Barney.

Pat Cremin - February 01, 2016 at 01:35 PM

PT

“ To the family of Mr. Byard, please accept Elena's & my deepest heartfelt thoughts, prayers and condolences. Mr. Byard helped many, many, many individuals, families and businesses throughout his career. May he be with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Pete Jr & Elena Tavares - February 01, 2016 at 12:11 PM

RK

“ With Deepest Sympathy and many kind thoughts for the family --
Our condolences from the Great Plains NAIFA members -- Barney
will be missed

Rhonda Knudson - February 01, 2016 at 11:41 AM



“ Garden Accent - "Someone you love..." was
purchased for the family of Barney Byard.



February 01, 2016 at 11:39 AM

TO

“ Teresa O'Donnell-Jones purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Barney Byard.



Teresa O'Donnell-Jones - February 01, 2016 at 11:13 AM

JR

“ I will fondly remember Barney Byard as a great teacher at HHS. Also I, along with Rita Ice had the privilege of babysitting for Barney and Mary Dean's children while we were in school.

May God wrap his arms around all of you and keep you in his loving care. I'm sure Barney will be smiling down from his eternal home just as he is in the picture you shared.

Sincerely,
Joan (Starr) Rossetto

Joan Rossetto - February 01, 2016 at 09:09 AM

SW

“ I'm thinking of your family. Your father made a difference with love and good humor. You can't really do better.

Steve Wilson - February 01, 2016 at 08:05 AM

LH

Mary Dean, may Barney's soul rest in peace. And may all of the Byard family know Barney was a good man. Larry & Jane Hesse

larry hesse - February 01, 2016 at 01:06 PM

MP

Dee, we wish peace and strength to you and all of your family.

Marie & Dave Plinsky - February 02, 2016 at 10:28 AM