



Claude "Corky" Corcoran

July 3, 1923 - September 21, 2017

Claude "Corky" Corcoran

July 3, 1923 – September 21, 2017

Claude ("Corky") William Corcoran, 94, of Conway, SC, passed away peacefully on September 21, 2017, at Embrace Hospice, Myrtle Beach.

Corky was born in Cottonton, Alabama, to Harry Byron Corcoran and Evelyn Christine Averett, the eldest of four. He loved growing up on the sizeable family farm, acting as paymaster, driving trucks, hunting and fishing with his dad, and playing basketball. In 1944, he married Jonnie Evelyn McLain, the love of his life. They were married for 66 years.

A veteran of World War II, Corky served in Europe with the U.S. Army's field artillery. One of his greatest joys later in life was participating in an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., where he and other senior veterans were honored and feted.

Corky graduated from Auburn University with a degree in aeronautical administration. A career government employee, he began at Patrick Air Force Base (Florida) where he was a procurement officer for the missile test center at Cape Canaveral. In 1970 he moved to Washington, D.C. and worked for Naval Air Systems Command (Department of Defense) as a contract

negotiator. He retired at age 55 after a successful career of which he was very proud.

An avid golfer, Corky and Dink moved to Conway in 1982. He was best known as a jazz pianist who played up and down the Grand Strand, sometimes solo but more often with his combo, the Simply Music Ensemble. Corky started tinkering with the keys at a young age. His keen ear and natural talent led to a serious avocation that he enjoyed his entire life. Always the life of the party, he was generous with his time, treasure and music, and loved hosting jam sessions and encouraging young musicians. To hear Corky live, go to Simply Music Ensemble on Youtube.

Corky played piano and taught men's Sunday school at Trinity United Methodist in Conway. He was a proud member of the Conway Kiwanis Club and an active volunteer supporting The Shepherd's Table. Together with Dink and Simply Music, for many years they offered a Christian ministry through music and inspirational readings at area nursing homes.

In 2015 Corky moved to Eagle Crest and later to Brightwater, both in Myrtle Beach. The family would like to thank the staff and nurses there, at Grand Strand Medical Center and at Embrace Hospice, as well as the caregivers at Home Instead for their support and care. The family also wishes to thank their dear friend Brenda Washell for her faithful support and love, who sang and played music with Corky, and was a steadfast ally in countless ways.

Corky is survived by his brother Byron Corcoran (Emma), cousin William Allen Motley (Carol), daughters Christine Corcoran and Marge Corcoran Brodahl, grandchildren Jeffrey Beasley and Jan Beasley, and brother and sister-in-law Ben and Ann Smith. He was predeceased by his sister Elizabeth Browder and brother Wilson Corcoran.

A celebration of life will be held at Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel, 606 Beaty St., Conway, SC, on Friday, September 29. Visitation at 3:00 pm, and service at 5:00 pm. All are welcome. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Trinity United Methodist Church 198 Long Ave. Conway, SC 29526.

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel is serving the family.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **29**. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Goldfinch Funeral Home
606-610 Beaty Street
Conway, SC 29526
(843) 248-4211
info@goldfinchfuneralhome.com
<https://www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com>

Celebration of Life

SEP **29**. 5:00 PM (ET)

Goldfinch Funeral Home
606-610 Beaty Street
Conway, SC 29526
(843) 248-4211
info@goldfinchfuneralhome.com
<https://www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall

BW

“ `<iframe width="560" height="315" src="https://www.youtube.com/embed/bKUs70iKuic"; frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>`

Brenda Washell - September 28, 2017 at 11:17 AM

BW

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Brenda Washell - September 28, 2017 at 11:00 AM

“ About a week before Christmas in 2008 there came that day I met Corky and my new life began. I just moved to SC from ME and ventured out with guitar in hand to find a place that might need some entertainment. I met him and the band at the same place later that day. The crowd elected me to sing with them and I even taught them a 'new' song...Rockin Around The Christmas Tree. New to them!

He stated that their bass player did all the singing and he passed away 2 days ago. He said "you sing very well --would you consider jamming with us soon?" I said "yes....and I play bass too!" His eyes got real big and he confirmed with me that I played bass. He told the other band members and they seemed happy about this news. I was thinking to myself how could I possibly play with these jazzy people---I have no clue at all about this genre of music except that I LOVE IT! I have played with country and hard rock bands all my life but this is a whole new world opening up to me. I was thrilled and frightened at the same time especially when we got to Corky's house a little while later and he showed me 5 pages front and back (single spaced and small font) of hundreds of songs they knew!! I looked through them and had a hard time to find songs that I barely heard of! I told him right out that I didn't have a clue....he laughed and said "Who does?...heh heh...you just follow along and write some words down and just sing them" Well sounded easy coming from him. The rest is history. I learned some songs and met awesome musicians!

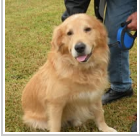
Classic textbook case of Divine Intervention I believe. Corky and I turned out to be best buds all these years and hung out. He became a part of my family, celebrating all the holidays, birthdays and family gatherings together. I became part of his family as well and that is a great feeling! It was amazing how vital and willing to learn new things at the age of 83 when I met him. I fueled his fire for a more rapid way to burn CD's. Of course when I went to his house the first time I saw them all and he showed me his duplicator and told me that it was in 'real time'.I said "you mean a 45 minute CD takes you 45 minutes to duplicate??" I shook my head in disbelief! I finally talked him into getting a computer to burn discs on. He learned how

load the discs onto the pc, type in song titles and print them out and email. He was in CD heaven burning spindles full at a time and probably no less than 12 full spindles on hand so he 'would't run out'. Then I told him about duplicators that could do 3 at a time and he wanted me to order him one on Amazon. He loved it! He taught me about how to show kindness to people in need at the soup kitchen that he delivered food to. We went out there to play one night for dinner music per his suggestion. The people were coming in to eat and looked like they enjoyed it! He said he wanted to stop and get a burger one day when we were out and about at Goodwill. teaching this guy how to go through a drive up window for the first time was a hoot! He is like "there is someone talking to me" I am like "tell her what we want then drive around and give her the money" "Drive around where" "around the circle" "this is too complicated...I'm going inside!". So we made it through and then he said "hey this really works!" That was when I introduced him to the car picnic!

We were from totally different worlds and generations but just hit it off from the start and became good pals as time went by. I miss him so much already. He was my BFF and always will be. We will meet up yonder when I fly away.

I am posting this video because I loved to here him laugh and at 1:50 min in video I tell him "Oh Smile" and it is a precious memory for me. This was the last video of Erich Hunn playing with us at Eaglecrest. Missing Tony Capolingua so much too...he was a great man with a fabulous gift of music as Corky was. Much flavor in their music. They would laugh when I said it was Ear Candy!

Brenda Washell - September 28, 2017 at 10:22 AM



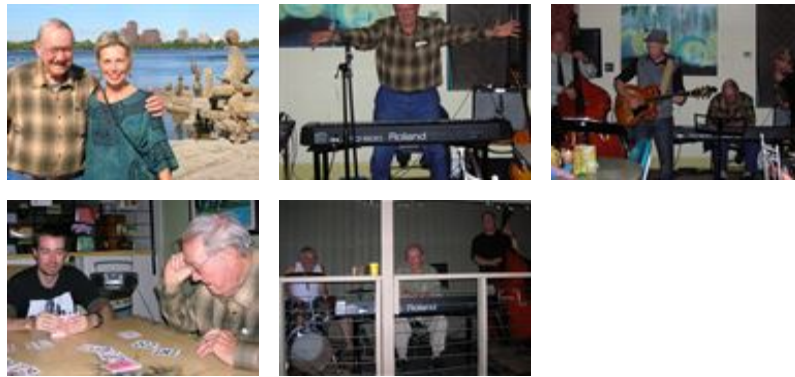
“Corky was a wonderful gentleman and friend. He was one of the first people I met at Kiwanis when I transferred my membership from California to Conway. I loved his music and he gave me many CDs to enjoy! I will always remember him as a true gentleman, friend, Kiwanian and Veteran! Rest in in Peace, Corky!!

Jill Dale

Jill Dale - September 27, 2017 at 04:16 PM



“60 files added to the album Life Tributes



Goldfinch Funeral Home - September 27, 2017 at 10:54 AM



“Corky was a very special person. He will surely be missed by those who were fortunate to know him. I realized how special Corky was after a long friendship and reading his autobiography. He was a faithful pianist with so many local musicians, including my husband, Erich Hunn. May you rest in peace Corky.

Lee Hunn



Lee Hunn - September 26, 2017 at 10:35 AM

WU

“ Thanks for your service Soldier !!!
Wayne Williams
United States Marine Corps



Wayne Williams - USMC - September 25, 2017 at 10:05 AM

CC

“ 1 file added to the album *Simply Music Ensemble*



Chris Corcoran - September 23, 2017 at 08:24 PM

CC

“ 1 file added to the album *Corky Corcoran on piano*



Chris Corcoran - September 23, 2017 at 08:07 PM