



## Robert Wayne Byrd

February 11, 1947 - May 29, 2023

Robert Wayne Byrd of Pawleys Island, South Carolina passed away on May 29, 2023 surrounded by his loving and devoted family at precisely 5 o'clock in the afternoon -- his favorite time of the day on one of his favorite days of the year (Memorial Day). A beloved husband, father and Pop, Wayne joined his heavenly family and friends after a vigorously-fought battle with a brief illness.

Wayne was born February 11, 1947, in Charleston, South Carolina, the first-born child of Robert Newton Byrd and Wilma Gwendolyn Byrd. As the oldest of five children, he was the family's anchor and always made sure his siblings felt special, included and loved. Wayne's drive to succeed and tireless work ethic was unmatched. As a young boy and man, he excelled on the football field at McClenaghan High School in Florence, South Carolina, and later as a 4-year starting offensive lineman at the University of Georgia, where he played for Vince Dooley and helped the Bulldogs secure two visits to the SEC championship, bringing home the SEC title in 1968. Exerting the same effort academically, Wayne graduated Magna Cum Laude from UGA with a Bachelor's degree in Business Personnel Management in 1969. After obtaining a Masters of Accountancy degree from UGA in 1972, Wayne attended law school at the University of South Carolina, where he graduated with honors in 1975. While working on his post-graduate degrees, Wayne served as an officer in the United States Army Reserves after going through basic training and serving as a platoon leader at Fort Polk in Louisiana. He

loved his country and was proud for the opportunity to serve.

Throughout his almost 50-year legal career, Wayne was served exceptionally well by the same work ethic and competitive drive that led him to succeed on the football field and academically. Upon graduating from law school, Wayne managed an active transactional and tax planning law practice in Greenville, South Carolina. In 1988, he returned to his hometown of Florence and joined the law firm of Turner Padgett Graham and Laney, P.A. where he focused his practice on complex business litigation. During his thirty-five years with Turner Padgett, Wayne held numerous leadership roles, culminating in his service as Chief Executive Officer from 2015-2018. Eventually, in 2005, Wayne and his wife, Georganne, relocated to their treasured home in North Litchfield Beach, and he founded the law firm's Myrtle Beach office. While a ferocious advocate in the courtroom, Wayne will be remembered for his tremendous professionalism and respect for the judicial system – a true lawyer of the “old school”. He received numerous awards for his work as a litigator and served the legal profession extensively through his leadership in the American Bar Association Section of Litigation as a member of the Trial Attorney Advisory Board, a Member of Council, a Director of three different Divisions, a Chair of the Business Torts Committee and Managing Director. In recognition of his hard work and success on the football field, as well as his life-long, post-graduate professional accomplishments, Wayne was inducted into the National Football Hall of Fame, University of Georgia Chapter, in 2016 -- a distinguished honor reserved for those who have excelled in their chosen professions.

Although Wayne was a revered (and often feared) attorney in the courtroom, his heart belonged at home with his family. On May 30, 1992, he married Georganne (Baroody) with whom he shared a wonderful life of 31 years that were filled with good wine and fine dining, extensive travel and plenty of laughter. As a self-trained gourmet chef, Wayne loved preparing amazing

meals for the family and friends that regularly filled their home. He was the proud father of four children, Nikole Mariencheck (Bobby), Rod Byrd, Christopher Byrd (Audra), and Wallace Mullinax (Kristen). He was a loving Pop to seven grandchildren, Caid Byrd, Parker Mariencheck, Victoria Byrd, Hannah Grace Mariencheck, Kinley Byrd, Gray Mariencheck and Aiken Mullinax. Wayne was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Wilma Byrd. He was blessed with four siblings, Greg Byrd, Timmy Byrd, Terry Byrd Amaral, and Larry Byrd, and several nieces and nephews. After marrying Georganne, he gained another brother, Murray Baroody (Marley), and four cherished nieces and nephews. Wayne will be forever missed and remembered for his generosity, kindness and compassion, and his family will strive to continue his legacy of strength, integrity and service to others. After hearing the news, his friends' outpouring of love was in abundance: special, gracious, generous, true gentleman, outstanding lawyer, warm, and caring were just some of the words used in an attempt to capture his whole being.

A memorial service will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, June 9, 2023 at Holy Cross Faith Memorial Episcopal Church in Pawleys Island, South Carolina.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorial donations may be made in Wayne's name to any of the following: Baskervill Food Pantry or The Smith Clinic both at 99 Baskervill Dr., Pawleys Island, SC 29585, Grace Based Grief Resources For Children, Holy Cross Faith Memorial Church, 113 Baskervill Dr., Pawleys Island, SC 29585; All4Paws, 708 Petigru Dr., Pawleys Island, SC 29585 or Saint Francis Animal Rescue, 125 Ridge St., Georgetown, SC 29440.

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel is honored to be in charge of arrangements for Wayne's family.

## Cemetery Details

### **Mt. Hope Cemetery**

100 Cherokee Road  
Florence, SC 29501

## Previous Events

### **Memorial Service- Holy Cross Faith Memorial Episcopal Church**

JUN **9**. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Holy Cross Faith Memorial Church  
113 Baskervill Dr  
Pawleys Island, SC 29585  
(843) 237-3459

# Tribute Wall



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Robert Wayne Byrd.* ”



June 07, 2023 at 09:31 PM



“ *Your Family at RMS purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Robert Wayne Byrd.* ”



**Your Family at RMS** - June 07, 2023 at 10:03 AM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Robert Wayne Byrd.* ”



June 06, 2023 at 10:00 PM



“ *Sherrie and Ronnie Boston purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Robert Wayne Byrd.* ”



**Sherrie and Ronnie Boston** - June 06, 2023 at 10:28 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Robert Wayne Byrd.



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June 05, 2023 at 07:21 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Robert Wayne Byrd.



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June 05, 2023 at 01:09 PM



“ *The Phillips Family* purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Robert Wayne Byrd.



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**The Phillips Family** - June 05, 2023 at 12:05 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Robert Wayne Byrd.

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June 04, 2023 at 02:21 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Robert Wayne Byrd.



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June 04, 2023 at 02:21 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Robert Wayne Byrd.



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June 02, 2023 at 02:25 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Robert Wayne Byrd.

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June 02, 2023 at 02:25 PM

BG

“A true gentleman.” Twenty plus years watching Wayne work his magic in all manner of situations compels the description. What a privilege to have worked with him and to have shared more than one bottle of very fine wine and dozens of hearty laughs brought on by his droll, razor-sharp wit. What an education to watch him firmly advocating his position but never belittling his adversary. Gentle, but not soft, is a rare blend.

*Emerson is said to have written: “To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; to know that even one life has breathed easier because you have lived - that is to have succeeded.” By any of those measures, what a success Wayne was.*

*We share your loss.*

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**Bill Garcia** - June 02, 2023 at 10:36 AM

LW

“A prestigious and accomplished advocate, gourmand, wine expert, story teller, outdoorsman, family leader and a dear, dear friend. Wayne brought laughter and light to everyone he met. I will miss him deeply.

*Georganne - words simply can't express . . . except to say you have our love.*

*Larry Watson*

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**Larry Watson** - June 02, 2023 at 07:35 AM



“ Sweet Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Robert Wayne Byrd.



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June 01, 2023 at 05:46 PM



“ I first met Wayne on a golf course in San Antonio, Texas. He was an honorable gentleman and golfer. I will miss his kindness and easy smile.

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**Marty Truss** - June 01, 2023 at 05:01 PM



“ Wayne has been my friend since I met him in law school. Right before my bar exam, my son, Jamey, was born and we brought him home where he kept me up all night crying before the first day of the bar exam. I was exhausted and Wayne offered his couch to me to get some sleep before the 2nd day of exams. I passed the bar exam but not without Wayne's helping me to get some sleep for the exam. We joked about that for years. I've known Wayne throughout his legal career and can say that he was one of the finest gentleman and lawyers I have ever known. We all will miss Wayne in the years to come and I extend my deepest sympathies for his family for their loss. But remember, that he will be looking down on you from above, smiling, and waiting for you to join him in heaven.

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**James P Stevens, Jr** - June 01, 2023 at 04:40 PM

DS

“ Georganne,  
*I'm so very sorry to hear of Wayne's passing. Although I've only known him for a short time, it was clear to me that he was a very special, Renaissance man. It was an honor and a privilege to know him!*  
*David Sapp*

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**David Sapp** - June 01, 2023 at 04:31 PM

TM

“ *Our sympathy +*

*Deborah & Tom Marchant  
379 Golden Bear Drive, J2  
Pawleys Island, SC 29585*

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**Tom Marchant** - June 01, 2023 at 02:43 PM

LM

*So sorry for your loss Terry. Prayers for you and family! Love you. Lola and Joe Marsh*

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**Lola Marsh** - June 01, 2023 at 03:05 PM

VP

*To one of the greatest attorney I ever met in my life, I will miss him*

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**Vincenzo Panzarino** - June 01, 2023 at 03:20 PM

ME

*So sorry to hear of his passing. Deepest sympathy to all family and friends.*

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**Maleeta Jones Enis** - June 01, 2023 at 06:20 PM

FO

*To the family. My life long friend. We lost contact when my life took me to war, but reunited when I returned and visited him as he helped the Georgia Bulldogs win often. We became lawyers together at USC. He was a born tax lawyer, but went on to become a Special trial lawyer. I was fortunate to work with him on a few legal cases. Truly a gentleman, brother in the law and good servant in this world. Many will miss him. May the lord GOD grant his peace to his family, as the LORD welcomes Wayne home .*

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**FITZ O'CONNOR** - June 02, 2023 at 08:18 AM

RJ

*I knew Wayne slightly from the beach when I was in college. We were great friends in graduate school and his obituary sums him up perfectly. He had tremendous drive and focus as a student and it carried over into his practice of law. I am so sorry to hear of his passing.*

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**ROB JORDAN** - June 06, 2023 at 10:46 AM

DG

*Sympathy & condolences to the family 🙏🕊️ I grew up with the Byrd boys & Wayne was the big Georgia football player. I later worked for him one summer & he was truly one the of nicest guys! RIP 🕊️*

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**Dixie Stanton Gilbert** - June 07, 2023 at 10:08 AM