



## Byron McKinney

February 4, 2007

McKinney, Byron H. age 88, of Edina, died Jan. 30, 2007. Preceded in death by wife, Doreen. Survived by daughter, Marcia (John) Diracles of Hopkins and Kim Engelsman of Yardley, PA; 3 grandchildren, David (Megan) Diracles of London, England, Rob and Alison Engelsman of Yardley, PA. Byron was born in Scranton, Arkansas on March 11, 1918. He was raised in Arkansas and graduated from Hendrix College in 1939. During WWII he served with the U.S. Navy in the Pacific Theater. He returned home after the war to marry Doreen Robertson in 1946. They settled in New York City where he became a member of The American Theater Wing establishing the first TV training course in the United States. During this period Bryon was also an on-air radio and television personality. In 1948 he became one of two TV directors at the fledgling Dumont Television Network. Later, he was a producer for the advertising agency J. Walter Thompson. In 1969 he joined the Academy Award winning documentary film production company, Francis Thompson Inc. It was here and later in his own firm, Byron McKinney Associates, that he was the executive producer of many award winning films, including "City Out of Wilderness", "The Feast of the Gods", "Legacy... Andrew W. Mellon Remembered" and "Collecting America". In 1976 he produced "To Fly", the ground breaking IMAX film which opened at the inauguration of the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum. "To Fly" has been viewed by more people than any other film. In 1996 Byron and his wife retired to Edina where he continued his lifelong passion for the arts, travel and antiques. The family

is deeply grateful for all the help they received from the loving staff at Jones-Harrison Residence and from his Fairview Hospice team. Memorials preferred to Jones-Harrison Residence or Fairview Hospice. A memorial service will be held at 4:00 PM on Saturday, February 10, 2007 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, W. 50th St. & Wooddale, Edina. Washburn-McReavy Edina Chapel 952-920-3996