



Bryan Byrd

October 14, 1960 - October 31, 2021

Celebration of Life Update: If attending virtually Dec. 18 @ 3pm CST, scroll down for the Zoom link.

Charles "Bryan" Byrd, who specialized in cardiac medical devices, left us on Sunday 10/31/2021 at 61 years of age. He was overcome by COVID-19 pneumonia after an unrelated surgery.

Bryan was born in Madison, WI on 10/14/1960 to Charles Byrd and Linda Walters Byrd. During his childhood, he lived in New Orleans, Boston, and Miami. Early into adulthood, he studied in Atlanta and Austin to achieve a higher education. Bryan married his first wife, Rhonda Byrd, had a daughter, Christine, and raised his family in New Jersey for 15 years. Bryan moved to Minnesota in 2009 and resided with his current wife Caroline Byrd in Maple Grove, MN for the past 4 years.

He is preceded in death by his mother, Linda Byrd. He is survived by his father Dr. Charles and Nancy Byrd, Fort Lauderdale, FL; wife Caroline Byrd and her children William and Annaliese Leab, Maple Grove, MN; daughter Christine Byrd and grandsons Silas and Gavin Ridge, Saint Paul, MN; his first wife Rhonda Byrd, Tampa, FL; siblings, Dr. Shannon Byrd and Mick Reed, Knoxville, TN, and Kevin Byrd, Dallas, TX; nephews and nieces, Ryan Malloy; Jackson, Bo, and Lillie Byrd; Caylyn and Lauren Reed.

Bryan earned a Master of Arts degree in Physics from the University of Texas-Austin. While at the Navy Lab in Austin, he completed his Thesis on

Underwater Soundwaves. He started his career computer programming medical devices at Mount Sinai Hospital in Miami working with his father. He spent the rest of his career working for biomedical technology companies inventing and patenting cardiac medical devices and software algorithms that treat patients around the world. Bryan retired from Abbott in 2020.

Being the Vice President of Research and Development for more than 25 years allowed him to travel the world, and mentor and educate many people from the United States to Japan. One of Bryan's favorite things to do while in Tokyo was sing "Welcome to the Jungle" by Guns N' Roses at karaoke bars. Bryan lived to experience life to the fullest.

Bryan was a strong leader who encouraged everyone to think strategically and critically, work harder, laugh louder, and be more adventurous. His strong work ethic, fierce loyalty, wicked brilliance, and creative sense of humor will be greatly missed around the world. Everyone will remember his crooked grin and walrus laugh. Bryan's unique problem-solving abilities allowed him to continuously improve as a fearless leader.

Everyone was fortunate to have known and experienced life with Bryan, a man who saw every opportunity as a new adventure. In his free time, he loved being outdoors: boating, driving motorcycles and sports cars, target shooting, skiing, hiking, and mountain biking. He enjoyed playing guitar, billiards, darts, golf, and soccer. His favorite programs to watch were baseball, football, wrestling, and comedy shows. Bryan found solace in driving fast, weight lifting, listening to loud 80's Rock music, and spending time riding in the woods or boating with his family and friends.

Bryan was a tenacious visionary. His astonishing life's work had a positive impact on the global medical device industry. The many cardiac medical device inventions he designed and developed will continue to save lives everyday for decades to come. We will eternally miss him and cherish his legacy.

Goodbye for now, Bryan (the brainiac) Byrd.

Bryan's life will be celebrated at Lift Bridge Brewery in Stillwater, MN exactly the way he loved to spend time with us all; beer in hand and telling stories of our best times together.

- Saturday December 18, 2021
- 1900 Tower Drive W. Stillwater, MN 55082
- 2:30pm doors open, 3pm service and eulogies, 6pm visitation concludes
- Come and go as you wish to pay respects, but please be respectful of the 3-4pm timeframe to minimize disruptions.
- Country Inn & Suites by Radisson on Washington Ave. in Stillwater is walking distance of the brewery. Ask for the Lift Bridge rate.
- For those who wish to participate virtually, the 3pm CST service will be livestreamed.

Join the Zoom Meeting for Bryan's Celebration of Life Virtually

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/74478817038?pwd=MFFVQ2ZTVXI0NVBuYmNtMnhtcjdGdz09>

Meeting ID: 744 7881 7038

Passcode: 182811

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/74478817038?pwd=MFFVQ2ZTVXI0NVBuYmNtMnhtcjdGdz09>

To honor Bryan's legacy in medical device innovation and his contributions to heart health, a Go Fund Me has been established for the American Heart Association. Fundraiser by Philip Ebeling: In Memory of Bryan Byrd <https://gofund.me/5f0c8f90>

In lieu of flowers, the family would also appreciate donations to The Bakken Museum (www.thebakken.org) or the Science Museum of Minnesota (www.smm.org), organizations that inspire the next generation of physicists and engineers to make a positive impact on the world.

Previous Events

Service

DEC 18. 2:30 PM (CT)

Glen Haven Chapel
5125 West Broadway
Crystal, MN 55429
(763) 533-8643
info@washburn-mcreavy.com

Tribute Wall

BH

“ I worked with Bryan, his father Charles, and Charles's wife Nancy for 5 years, at Bio-Physical Interface from 1988 to 1993. So sorry to hear of his passing. These were very rewarding years, working to improve the lives of many of Dr. Byrd's patients through leading edge technology development, only possible through the combined excellence of this passionate team. My heart goes out to you, Charles, Nancy, and Rhonda.

Bryan Hallberg

Bryan Hallberg - November 28, 2022 at 05:45 AM

MM

“ Brian was my mentor when I joined EPMD back in 2000. He was the greatest and I will fondly remember all the great times from over the years.

Mike Mumford - December 13, 2021 at 12:42 PM

DK

“ I owe Bryan for taking me into EP, and grateful to know many people who are devoting their efforts to help patients because of him.
Other than jobs, Bryan loved sharing the experience on his muscle cars and bikes. Such a interesting soul! May he Rest In Peace...

Dai Kun - November 26, 2021 at 07:51 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Caroline Byrd - November 17, 2021 at 10:31 PM

EC

“ Really sorry for the loss of this man. He and I spoke often of our Harleys and shared routes and destinations for rides.

As everyone says, I wish I'd taken the opportunity to get to know him more. We had a lot more in common than I knew.

RIP

Eric Crist - November 09, 2021 at 11:18 PM

DS

“ Over the years, I have had the chance to meet with Bryan at numerous medical conferences from Boston to Seoul. I found his honesty, integrity, directness and insight to be refreshing.

Bryan was a brilliant engineer. He always found time to explain complex engineering issues to us mere sales/marketing type. This would ensure that we could interact with our customers in the most effective way.

Your smile, laugh and even your "Tokyo Power Karaoke" will be greatly missed.

My deepest condolences to the family for your great loss.

David Smith

David Smith - November 09, 2021 at 09:38 PM

DM

“ Bryan was a mentor to me for over 15 years. When he hired me as a Field Clinical Engineer in 1997, he introduced me to the world of medical industry. I owe so much to this man. It pains me that I lost touch once I was RIF'd from St. Jude Medical.

When in NJ, I would come into the office and I would hear from the people there "Don't poke the bear...he's in a bad mood!" I'd just walk into his office say ask him why he was terrorizing his employees. He would, every time, glare at me, then laugh and laugh.

How many times did I hear "Are you sure???" I would say Yes. Then he'd say "Huh...never seen that before"

How many times did he tell a customer he could do something in 3 weeks??? Not that he WOULD do it in 3 weeks, but that he COULD do it in 3 weeks.

He helped me learn, laugh, and from making some huge professional mistakes.

I'm sorry I don't get to tell you all this in person, Bryan

Dave

Dave Montgomery - November 09, 2021 at 04:55 PM

CB

He knew how you felt, you never needed to say it out loud to him. I used to tell his grand kids that PeePaw was a grumpy bear and to go poke him 😊 I'm sure he loved that. I can still hear, "Are you suuure?"

Wishing you well,
Chrissy

Christine Byrd - November 09, 2021 at 07:02 PM



“ May 2, 2019 - Project Quantum threw Caroline a happy hour to say farewell to Caroline concluded her Abbott journey, that day was the first and last day I met Bryan. He showed up as Caroline +1 :) supporting his wife. And I remember he told me, " Anna, do what makes you happy!" I still remember it to these days, he is a true authentic caring person/leader!



Anna Chan - November 09, 2021 at 01:57 PM

AF

“ Bryan was a inspirational leader that truly lead by example. His big smile will be missed. Rest in peace Bryan.

Adam Fischbach - November 09, 2021 at 11:06 AM

JH

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



John Hudgens - November 09, 2021 at 09:39 AM

KM

“ I met Bryan while transitioning from West Berlin to St. Paul St. Jude. He was brilliant and his wit was like no other! His contributions to the medical device world is amazing and outstanding. RIP and you will be missed by all. Kris Miller

Kris Miller - November 09, 2021 at 09:38 AM

JL

“ Bryan saw the wood from the trees. With profound respect, RIP BB.

James Lerro - November 08, 2021 at 10:41 PM



“ I met Bryan while in college and worked with him and his Dad at Mt Sinia. Bryan was a great guy with a quick wit. He made an enormous impact on our industry. He will be greatly missed. May his memory be a blessing to all who knew him.

Eli Wettstein - November 08, 2021 at 07:57 PM

KE

“ Kevin lit a candle in memory of Bryan Byrd



Kevin - November 08, 2021 at 06:51 PM