



## Dr. Thomas Lynn Byfield

March 19, 1928 - August 29, 2019

Thomas Lynn Byfield

Tom was born March 19, 1928 in Fargo, ND to Harry and Louise (Trutnovsky) Byfield. He passed away peacefully surrounded by family on August 29, 2019.

Tom knew by age 7 that he wanted to be a dentist. He graduated from Fargo HS a year early then enlisted, serving in Japan. He played stand up bass professionally and with the Army Service Band.

The GI Bill helped fund Tom's college education. He graduated from the U of M School of Dentistry in 1952, and married the love of his life, Jeul Eide, that same year. Tom and Jeul settled in Bagley, MN, where he practiced dentistry for 37 years. He was involved in state dental politics including the creation of Delta Dental. He spent a summer in St Lucia as a volunteer dentist. Dentistry was art to him.

Life in Bagley was filled with community service. He was chair of the local school and hospital boards and involved with other civic organizations. He helped design and transform a 40 acre pasture into the Bagley Golf Course. Tom enjoyed performing with the local community theatre group in several productions over the years, even earning a "Bagley Oscar".

After retiring, Tom and Jeul moved to downtown Minneapolis to be near family, theatre, concerts and other city delights. They traveled with their kids and many dear friends all around the world.

He completed the rigorous two year Minneapolis Institute of Arts (MIA) docent program, and enjoyed giving tours, wrote humorous columns for the MIA Docent Muse and served on the docent advisory board for almost 20 years. Tom was an artist, musician and writer. His paintings and hand crafted jewelry are family treasures.

Tom had a rampant curiosity and an insatiable appetite for learning. He was interested in people and their adventures. His multitasking abilities were legendary. He read five books a week while simultaneously doing the daily crossword, watching TV and listening to a Gopher game on the radio.

Tom's quick wit and quips delighted and surprised all who knew him. His Christmas letters were comedic high art. His humor endured until the end. At his request, his tombstone will read, "Here lies Tom Byfield DDS, filling his last cavity".

To his children and grandchildren he was larger than life, an amazing renaissance man and role model. His love of family and friends and his kindness are his abiding legacy. He will be deeply and forever missed.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents, Harry and Louise Byfield, wife Jeul Byfield, son-in-law Jerry Moore (Jen) granddaughter Andrea Lynn, niece Erica Eide, nephew Steve Eide.....and his dogs Muffy, Mickey and his beloved Patches.

Tom is survived by his son, Bret Byfield, daughters Jennifer (Lucia) Wroblewski, and Barbara Lynn, grandchildren Ian Strakal (Heidi), Shea Byfield

(Emma), Jeremiah Lynn (Katie) Shaun Lynn and Aaron Moore, great granddaughters Genesis Lynn and Georgia Williams, brother and sister-in-law Ev and Eunice Eide, nieces Linda Searle (Richard), Kristen Eckelberg (Todd) nephews Peter Eide (Sandy), Randy Eide (Terri) and Ross Artwhol (Andrea), and scores of others who loved, respected and admired him.

Services will be held at 12 noon with visitation starting at 11:30AM on Saturday, October 19th at the Lakewood Cemetery Memorial Chapel, 3600 Hennepin Ave S, Minneapolis.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 19. 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Lakewood Memorial Chapel  
3600 Hennepin Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55408

## Church Service

OCT 19. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Lakewood Memorial Chapel  
3600 Hennepin Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55408

# Tribute Wall

TB

“ *The Family of Thomas Byfield purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dr. Thomas Lynn Byfield.*



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**The Family of Thomas Byfield** - October 17, 2019 at 09:50 AM

DB

“ *My deepest sympathy to all of Tom's family. I have many fond memories of the Byfields and Bentleys getting together at the Minnesota Dental meetings. My husband, Dr. Don practiced Dentistry in Hawley and Dr. Tom in Bagley. Often, Juel and I were with them so we shared some good times together. May God bless his memory.*  
*Sincerely, Dorothy Bentley*

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**Dorothy Bentley** - September 10, 2019 at 03:54 PM

EN

“ *I will never forget getting to know Tom from our docent class at the MIA. He was always so much fun to talk to and to interact with. Tom will be greatly missed by all who knew him and Juel. I would regularly see them both at the Orchestra Hall Coffee Concerts. We will miss you Tom but will forever be touched by your life.*

*Eleanor Nickles*

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**EleanorN Nickles** - September 06, 2019 at 01:19 PM

RT

“ *Dr. Byfield was our family dentist. He was my dentist from the first time I ever went to a dentist as a child until I graduated from High School. He watched so many of us grow up! I remember running into the whole Byfield family at a St. Paul Saints game in the 1990's. It was so surprised to see them! It was so nice to be remembered and very fun to do a little catching up!*

*My sincere condolences to the Byfield family.*

*Randi Gedstad Tomlinson.  
Falcon Heights, MN.*

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**Randi Tomlinson** - September 02, 2019 at 11:26 AM

BA

“ *Barb, Brett and Jen,  
So many fond memories of Tom and Juel. A privilege to know them through Church and Community Theatre. A donation has been made to the Clearwater County Historical society in memory of Tom. Our sympathy.  
Bob and Becky Agnew*

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**Bob Agnew** - September 02, 2019 at 09:47 AM