



Herman L. "Rip" Byrd

August 28, 1928 - September 20, 2005

H. L. "Rip" Byrd passed away September 20, 2005. Rip was born August 28th, 1928 in Houston, Texas. Rip was the only child of Jim and Irene Byrd. Rip is survived by his wife of 54 years, Frances, and three sons Rod Byrd, Rex Byrd, Warren Byrd and one daughter Michelle Byrd Burns. He also has two daughters-in-law Pam Byrd and Cheryl Byrd and one son in law Brent Burns. There are six grandchildren Clint Byrd, Chad Byrd, Lisa Byrd, Cindy Byrd, Emily Byrd and Courtney Byrd Burns.

Rip grew up in Huntsville and basically lived here all his life. After high school he graduated from S.F.A. in forestry and then enlisted in the U.S.M. C. and became an officer. He went to Korea and served his country. He was discharged as a captain.

In 1953 Rip began work as a field forester for Champion Paper Company and lived in Livingston seven years. In 1960 he moved back to Huntsville and in 1963 he went into partnership with J.C. and Dorothy Walker in Walker Brother Lumber Company.

They also opened Walker-Byrd, a retail lumber and home-builder supply store; Raven Timber, a pulpwood business; and Rip Byrd Properties, a real estate property company.

Rip has held a membership in the Texas Forestry Association since 1951 serving in several capacities through the years. He was President of the Association two different years and was also a member of the Society of American Foresters. He actively participated in the upstart of the T.R.E. program, a reforestation program.

Rip joined the First Baptist Church in 1938 and was baptized. He has been a deacon of First Baptist Church for many years and served in any way the church needed him. Rip served on the Board of directors for the First National Bank and was a director for the Huntsville Chamber of Commerce. He was a Mason, a Shriner, and a Jester. Rip helped organize a local Shriners Club, and served as its inaugural president. He was also chosen as distinguished alum for S.F.A. He received the honor from Society of American Foresters as “A Fellow .”

Rip Byrd was a man dedicated to the ideals that all people hold most dear. For his entire life, he has been serving God, his country his community and his family. Where his priorities were was never unclear; it is in his generous and loving spirit that so many around him have found comfort, strength, and powerful inspiration to succeed. He will be missed by all who loved him.

Funeral services will be held at the First Baptist Church of Huntsville at 1:00 p.m.

Thursday September 22, 2005 with the Rev. David Valentine officiating.

Military honors will be held at graveside by the American Legion Post #618 Honor Guard of Willis, Texas. Masonic Rites will be held graveside by Forrest Lodge #19 AF& AM. Interment will follow at Ebenezer Cemetery under the direction of Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home. The family will receive friends Wednesday, September 21, 2005 at the funeral home from 6 to 8 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the First Baptist Church Rip

Byrd Memorial Fund.

Those wishing to leave memorial condolences to the family may do so at www.shmfh.com.

Tribute Wall



“ Herman L. "Rip" Byrd

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ I just found out Rip was gone last night (Oct 3rd) when I listened to Michelle's msg on my phone! Not taking the HV Item and staying busy with 13 extra people in my house who evacuated has kept me in the dark.
Jay thought the world of his "Uncle Rip" and I feel terrible I wasn't at the funeral. Please know my heart aches for all of you.
Love Dena

Dena Byrd - October 04, 2005 at 07:25 PM



“ Dear Sweet Frances -

I just returned from escaping Hurricane Rita to find out that Rip Passed away last week. I am so sorry to hear the news. My condolences and love and prayers are with you. I will call and check on you when things settle down around the country. All my old numbers still work: home - (713) 467-4522 and office - (713) 880-2355.

Love you,
Brenda

Brenda Tinsley - September 28, 2005 at 01:42 PM

DW

“ Dear Frances and the entire Byrd Family:
Our prayers are with you. Rip was a special man. I still remember the first time I met him. He always had an encouraging word and his support over the last seventeen years has meant so much to me. He had that wonderful grin which made you feel like the top of the world. It was always a pleasure to see him. It was an honor to have known him.

David Weeks and his family

David Weeks - September 21, 2005 at 10:55 PM

DW

“ Dear Frances and the entire Byrd Family:

David Weeks - September 21, 2005 at 10:49 PM

KL

“ I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Byrd a few years ago during an event at his home. Having lived in Huntsville for 15 years, I had heard many great things about Mr. Byrd, but hadn't ever met him. When I did, we talked several minutes about the forestry museum in Lufkin and his wonderful donations to the museum (I specifically remember him talking about the car in the museum). The conversation was so pleasant that I can remember telling my husband about how enjoyable talking to him was for me. Although I never had the pleasure of seeing Mr. Byrd again, I wished our paths would have crossed so that I could again enjoy his company. I thought you might want to know that he made a great impression on those people that only met him once. My heart felt wishes to all of the family.

Kathy Lepley - September 21, 2005 at 11:51 AM

DP

“ MY CONDOLONCES TO ALL OF YOU. MR. BYRD WAS A GOOD MAN AND A GOOD FRIEND. IT WAS A PLEASURE KNOWING HIM. THE COMMUNITY WAS LUCKY TO HAVE SOMEONE LIKE HIM LIVING IN HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS. WE'LL MISS HIM VERY MUCH.

DON PRICE - September 21, 2005 at 09:47 AM

DP

“ *Herman L. "Rip" Byrd*

DON PRICE - September 21, 2005 at 09:43 AM

NJ

“ *Frances and Family, how very sad to hear about Mr. Rip's death. You and he, both, will always have a special place in my heart! You have always been very special people to me. Our prayers are with you and the rest of the family. With love, Norma Dell and Jerry D. Jones of Lovelady.*

Norma Dell & Jerry D. Jones - September 20, 2005 at 04:02 PM

DH

“ *Frances & family,*

We are praying for you during this very difficult time. Please know that we love you.

Donna Haney - September 20, 2005 at 12:28 PM