



## Donald Francis Byrne

July 10, 1946 - August 28, 2017

Donald (Don) Francis Byrne, of Kankakee, IL., passed away Monday morning, August 28th 2017, at his home in Kankakee, at the age of 71.

A memorial visitation will be held at Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home, at 1480 West Court Street in Kankakee on Thursday, August 31st from 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. A memorial Mass will be held at St. Patrick's Church in Kankakee on Friday, September 1st at 10:00 a.m. Memorials may be made to Hospice of Kankakee Valley.

Don was born in Chicago, IL. on July 10th 1946 to Adeline Holub and Donald W. Byrne. He grew up in Cicero, IL., but eventually moved to Kankakee and graduated from Kankakee High School. Don started learning photography from his father and continued his studies at Layton School of Art in Milwaukee, WI. and later at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. He took over the family business, Byrne Photography, following the passing of his father in 1970. He continued his career as a certified professional photographer for another 45 years, leading a commercial photography department at Roper Corporation from 1977 to 1980 and Byrne Photography from 1970 to 2015. On September 18th 1971 he married Louayne Michlitsch at St. Patrick's Church in Kankakee, enjoying 46 years of marriage together. Don earned many awards and recognitions for his life's work as a Professional Photographer, to include: "Top 10 Photographers of Illinois" multiple years; multiple images were accepted to the Professional Photographers of America (PPA) Loan Collection, others featured in Professional Photographer

magazine, and the Eastman Kodak National Traveling Exhibit. Don served in numerous leadership positions in both the Association of Professional Photographers of Illinois (APPI) and PPA, to include: PPA International Certification Committee 1986 to 1989; President of APPI in 1990; Chairman of the PPA Standards Committee from 1990-1993; and instructed seminars throughout the country. He also led a successful challenge against the State of Illinois to reduce the state sales tax rate on photography. After retiring from photography, he enjoyed working as a driver at Riverside Senior Life Communities, transporting residents to appointments, while trying to brighten the days of those he assisted. However, his greatest passion and proudest work is the family he and his wife made. He is survived by his wife, Louayne Byrne; son Jason Byrne; daughter Nicole and her spouse James Bell and their children Merric, Oliver and Charlie.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

AUG 31. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Kankakee - Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home  
1480 W. Court St.  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
(815) 932-1214  
cgfuneral@gmail.com

## Memorial Mass

SEP 1. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Patrick Catholic Church  
428 S. Indiana  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
(815) 932-6716

# Tribute Wall



“ From our family to yours, we wish to express our condolences for your loss. We sat near you at church and I never realized Mr. Bryne had photographed my senior pictures many years ago...he was very patient and I love those pictures.  
The Watters family (from St. Patrick's church).

Malissa Kepner-Watters - September 01, 2017 at 08:11 PM



When my daughter Lauren told me she was an alter server today for a funeral I did not make the connection. I am glad she was able to do this for one of our fellow parishioners . God bless!

Malissa Kepner-Watters - September 01, 2017 at 08:17 PM

KK

“ Although I only knew Don for a short time, we connected immediately. I've had one of the greatest gifts life allows, to have another person to call friend. I'm a better person to have had you as my friend Don. I'll miss you, we will toast a Guinness in a better place. My thoughts are W/ his wife children & grandchildren. I've never heard anyone speak higher of his family!he was so proud.

Keith Krizic - August 31, 2017 at 05:19 PM

RG

“ With our deepest sympathy for all of the family. Don was a truly gifted artist whose work created lasting memories for generations.  
The Gonskis

Rebecca Gonski - August 30, 2017 at 02:50 PM

RO

“ My deepest sympathy to you at this time. Don was such an icon when I worked for him! I learned so much from Don as his assistant all those years ago. His talent was amazing and unmatched with that camera! He made many people happy using his magic to capture their special moments. I will always be grateful to you both for your kindness. God bless your family. With much Love, Robin O'Connor

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**Robin R OConnor** - August 30, 2017 at 12:50 PM

CB

“ Remembering a wonderful classmate. Remember his dad taking my high school class picture and wedding pictures. Don was such a great man. Sympathy to his entire family at this difficult time in your lives.

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**Carol Ziemer Buente** - August 30, 2017 at 10:32 AM

JN

“ My sympathy to his family. Ironically, 30 years ago today he took our wedding photos. We pull them out every year and will always treasure them. (He also did my senior pictures... Super awkward time that he made less traumatic. ) Blessings to his entire family.

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**Julie Kramer Newquist** - August 30, 2017 at 12:18 AM

 Lisa Gerth

“ I have Don to thank for capturing two very memorable events of my life, my senior pictures and my pre bridal session. I remember both days like they were yesterday. He made me feel so comfortable, as I wasn't the most photo friendly. In fact I remember him asking me if I had stock in Kodak or something because most often times I would blink and he would have to retake it. I look at both of those albums very often as they were both very joyful times in my life. My condolences to his family.

*Sincerely, Lisa Azzarelli Gerth*

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**Lisa Gerth** - August 29, 2017 at 11:41 PM

KI

“ I worked with Don at Miller. He was one of the best men I have ever met. It was a privilege to have met. He will be missed. Sincerely, Katie ideran

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**Katherine ideran** - August 29, 2017 at 04:04 PM

MT

“ Prayers are with you at this sad time. May God bless you with His peace and comfort.

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**Mary Thomson** - August 29, 2017 at 03:05 PM

RM

“ Our sympathy to the entire Byrne family. Don was a special friend for many years. He will truly be missed.

*Tim and Rita Malson*



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**Rita Malson** - August 29, 2017 at 01:27 PM

RM

“ Our sympathy to Don's family. He was such a gentleman, and a truly talented photographer. Our area has suffered a loss with his passing. We are fortunate to have wonderful 'school' pictures taken by Don while our kids attended St. Martin's and Bishop Mac, compliments of Don. May your memories keep him close in your hearts and the laughter you share over them be more than the tears you shed as the years pass.

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**Rose Devine Mitchell** - August 29, 2017 at 10:01 AM

 Sheryl Roesemeier

“ Kankakee Glass send prayers of comfort and strength

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**Sheryl Roesemeier** - August 29, 2017 at 09:12 AM

KK

“ Simply put, Don was one of the finest persons we've ever met. We will greatly miss our dear friend.

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**Kathy and Ried Knapp** - August 28, 2017 at 09:14 PM

MW

“ It was such a joy to work with Don. He ALWAYS had a smile and brightened your day. He will be greatly missed.

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**Melissa Weaver** - August 28, 2017 at 07:36 PM

TS

“ We are so sorry to hear this...Our condolences, love, hugs, and prayers. Heaven rejoices in his Birth-into-PARADISE-DAY.

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**Therese & Rich Schultz** - August 28, 2017 at 05:41 PM

JE

“ *Julie Enright lit a candle in memory of Donald Francis Byrne*



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**Julie Enright** - August 28, 2017 at 04:25 PM