



William Paul Byrns

June 8, 1946 - August 21, 2011

William Paul "Bill" Byrns, 65 of Bradley died Sunday, August 21, 2011 at Riverside Medical Center Emergency Room. He was born June 8, 1946 in Kankakee the son of Paul Fenelon and Margaret Alberta Cox Byrns. He married Ruth A. Floyd on September 30, 1972 at St. George Catholic Church. Bill graduated from Lewis College in 1969 and began his career at The Daily Journal one day later. Over the years, he has been a Staff Photographer, Writer, Reporters, and Editor of the Out Door Page. He was a member of the Anglers Association, Conservation Congress, and Tau Kappa Epsilon. Bill had also been the president of the Jaycee's. He enjoyed travelling, especially to New Orleans and Ireland. He adored his horse and his dogs and loved reading. Bill was interested in Astronomy, Ecology, and following the ongoing status of the Kankakee River. Surviving are his wife, Ruth A. Byrns of Bradley; one son and daughter-in-law, Michael & Jennifer Byrns of Odell; two grandchildren, Alek Sean Byrns and Natalee Elise Byrns; one step-grandchild, Nickolas Haley; one sister, Paula Margaret (William) Nash of Mt. Zion; one nephew, William Paul Nash; and one niece, Rachel Nash. He is preceded in death by his parents. Visitation will be held from 4-8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 23, 2011 at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Bourbonnais. Funeral Mass will be celebrated 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, August 24, 2011 at St. George Catholic Church. Fr. Dan Belanger, Fr. Patrick Laggess, and Deacon Peter Laggess Jr. will officiate. Interment will be held at St. George Catholic Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the family wishes or St. George Catholic Church.

Cemetery Details

St. George Cemetery

5272 E. 5000 N. Rd.
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 929-6363

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **23.** 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.
295 Main St., NW
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Funeral Mass

AUG **24.** 10:00 AM (CT)

St. George Catholic Church
5272 E. 5000 N. Rd.
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 939-1851
<http://www.stgeorgeil.com>

Tribute Wall

BF

“ *Bill and I were at Lewis College and worked on the school newspaper together. I remember him as gentle and generous. I had a nice visit with him and Ruth many years ago when Michael was just a little boy. I'm saddened to hear that he is no longer with us.*

---Br. Thomas Hetland, FSC Chicago

Br. Thomas Hetland FSC - December 18, 2017 at 11:21 AM

MC

“ *Our prayers are with you and your family at this most difficult time. May you find strength in God to get you through the days ahead without Bill. The "Billy" I remember was as a classmate at St. Stanislaus Grade School, so over the years always reading*

*Bill's articles in the Daily Journal brought back those memories of years gone by. knowing that his love for Kankakee and all it stood for was still important to him. May you always treasure what he stood for. Margaret Roberts Chaney Punta Gorda, FL/
Wilmington IL.*



Mary Chaney - August 26, 2011 at 12:34 PM

LP

“ *Ruth,
I'd met Bill only once, but mostly I knew him because for me, he lived through you. My impression of that one meeting was "what a kind man!" Now that I've read all the articles, I feel like I've known him forever. I know you'll treasure your cherished memories of him, and my prayer is that those cherished memories will sustain you through this difficult time. I wish I could be there for you, Ruth. Why do the good ones always seem to leave us too soon? My most heartfelt and sincere condolences are being sent to you, Michael, and the grandchildren.*

Love and hugs,

Lynn Panici



Lynn Panici - August 24, 2011 at 03:44 PM

GR

“ Ruth,

So sorry for your loss. Praying for you and your family.

Gina Fiore Rupert

Gina Fiore Rupert - August 24, 2011 at 10:44 AM

MP

“ *Thoughts and prayers to Bill's family. Bill was an honest, hardworking reporter. I admired and appreciated his willingness to get to the sources for information. He will be missed.*

*Sincerely,
Mick Porter*

Mick Porter - August 23, 2011 at 05:45 PM



“ *Bill was truly a great guy who will be missed by all. I can speak for all the TKE Brothers of Lambda Beta Chapter of Lewis College/University. I wrote quite a long tribute this afternoon which didn't take o I will see if this takes before re-write it again.*



Bill had more dignity and respect and was loved by all his brothers. Fromm all the TEKE'S from Lewis we wish our condolences to his entire family and thank all of you for letting us share part of his life. He was the best of all of us and he will be missed greatly at any type of function we have.

Ronnie

Ronnie Weimer - August 23, 2011 at 12:18 AM

KZ

“ Bill was a truly caring, considerate, honorable man. His sense of humor, quick wit, and ability to cut through the bureaucratic garbage — regardless of from whom it was spewing — were just a few of the gifts bestowed on Bill. And, in turn, were bestowed on all of us who loved and cared about Bill.

He was a consummate professional who not only loved to tell stories, but wanted to share them with the community he so loved. His love for his family, all of God's creatures (except cats :)), and passion for the environment are just part of what made Bill such a wonderful man. It has been my honor to become friends with, and work alongside of, such a remarkable person. I miss you.

My prayers are with Bill's wife, Ruth, his family, and his grandchildren. May God, and your memories of Bill, comfort you.

- Kristen Zambo

Kristen Zambo - August 22, 2011 at 11:30 PM

CG

“ Bill was the ultimate professional, always striving to get it right and say it right; his photographic ability was complimented so well by his genuine writing ability too. And he was always a gentleman in pursuing his story...that, perhaps, made him a special professional friend who will be missed.

My prayers go out to Bill's wife, Ruth, son, Michael and family, and his Daily-Journal family.

-Carl Gerdovich

Carl Gerdovich - August 22, 2011 at 10:27 PM

JB

“ I knew Bill for many years. First from when he was a photographer for the Daily Journal then as a reporter who covered the Herscher Village Board meetings and then as our main contact at the Journal for events of the Herscher Chamber of Commerce. He did a great job for us every year with his coverage of the Herscher Labor Day Celebration events. I will really miss working with him. He was a great guy.

John Branz

John G. Branz - August 22, 2011 at 08:59 PM

MF

“ MARSHA FAFORD lit a candle in memory of William Paul Byrns



MARSHA FAFORD - August 22, 2011 at 07:20 PM

MF

RUTH I'AM SO SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS. I SEND LOVE AND PRAYERS TO HELP YOU THROUGH THIS DIFFICULT TIME. MARSHA FAFORD

MARSHA FAFORD - August 22, 2011 at 07:23 PM

JP

“ Bill was a friend at Lewis, and a person who I grew to both respect and understand as a truly loyal, trustworthy and honorable person. When we were seniors, Bill took me on several rides in his Cougar back to Kankakee, where he planned to work for the local paper. Even at that early time, Bill knew exactly what he wanted to do with his life. Unlike many of us, he followed his plans and has had a life he wanted. He loved his area of Kankakee, his family and his work. While we kept in contact for a few years after graduation, we did not talk much for years, until the TKE reunion. He called me, and although I could not make the reunion, spent time catching up. The value of his early efforts when the fraternity was starting, combined with his work during the reunion planning, has benefited all the brothers in our fraternity and will be remembered as will he. I am very sorry I did not stay in contact but am very glad I met and knew him for the good friend and brother he was.

Jack Pyne, '69

Jack Pyne - August 22, 2011 at 05:02 PM

LA

“ Bill took my wedding pics in 1975. He worked with my dad so I knew him pretty well. He was a good man, a family man. I'm sure he will be missed by all. Condolences to the family.

Lori Korstick Anderson

Lori Korstick Anderson - August 22, 2011 at 04:21 PM

CC

“ I'm a better person having known Bill. He helped me when I was a pledge in the fraternity and a mentor when I became an active. God bless, Bill.

Cary Cavacini class of '71

Cary Cavacini - August 22, 2011 at 03:59 PM

JW

“ BILL WAS THE HISTORIAN FOR TEKE WHEN I PLEDGED IN 1968. HE WAS A KIND AND GENTLE SOUL. HE LOVED BEING A TEKE. MY HEART GOES OUT TO HIS FAMILY. HE WAS TOO YOUNG TO LEAVE THIS WORLD BUT HEAVEN WILL BE A BETTER PLACE BECAUSE HE DID.

FAREWELL FRATER BYRNS,

YITB, JACK WENGER CLASS OF '71

JACK WENGER - August 22, 2011 at 02:56 PM

JC

Bill was gone when I entered TEKE. We became close after our reunion in March 2011. He was a kind and gentle man. He will be truly missed.
YITB, Jack Coleman Class of 75

Jack Coleman - August 22, 2011 at 09:52 PM

W1

“ I recall Bill as a Fraternity brother and a man on the college newspaper> He was Kankakee to the bone. I have not seen him since college. he was a good man then and I suspect even better throught out his life. This brings to mind to cherish those you care about as life is far too short. Bill passing brings one more thought to mind. As a fellow classmate of the class of 1969, a realize what a fine group pf fraternity brothers and otehr classmates we had at Lewis College now Lewis University. Those fewllow are getting old; I best talk to as many as I can.

William R Storie

William R Storie - class of 1969 - August 22, 2011 at 02:55 PM

TK

“ I knew Bill when he was a student at Lewis. He was a fine man with talent and a good heart. Tom Kennedy, Lewis University

Tom Kennedy - August 22, 2011 at 02:47 PM

JE

“ I just meet Frater Bill at a recent reunion, and it was like we were classmates. Bill was the picture of what Yours In The Bond and Frater for Life means. You will be missed.

John Elder, TKE, Lambda-Beta, Lewis University

John Elder - August 22, 2011 at 02:47 PM

JV

“ Frater Bill was a great contributor in the very successful reunion held by the Tekes of Lewis this past March. His compilation of pictures and captions from that event is just wonderful. I'm privileged to have been his friend and Frater. His terrific spirit is one that I will miss.

John Vainisi, TKE, Lambda -Beta, Lewis College

John A Vainisi - August 22, 2011 at 02:11 PM

KO

“ Frater Bill was a was a honored and valued brother in the Teke Fraternity at Lewis College. He will be missed by all whose lives he touched.

Ken Olipra - class of '69

Ken Olipra - August 22, 2011 at 01:56 PM

DB

“ I remember Bill as a kind and caring human being and thats what its all about. Condolences to the family;Kankakee and the readers of the journal will miss Bill
Dennis Bossinger

Dennis Bossinger - August 22, 2011 at 01:04 PM

BS

I met Bill his Senior year, when I was pledging TKE. While the rest of us "drifted" through life, Bill knew exactly what he wanted to do with his. The newspaper business was his business. He was thoughtful and empathetic to other points of view, even when pushed during heated discussions. He was a true gentlemen, with a big heart and always found the good in others. This is a great loss.

Bill Staperfenne Lewis College, class of '71

Bill Staperfenne - August 25, 2011 at 09:39 AM

DB

“ 4 files added to the album Boy Scout "Initial Briefing" for the Scribe 15 May 2011



Dianna L Benson - August 22, 2011 at 11:42 AM

DB

Bill truly left his mark on our youth in the Boy Scout program...

Dianna L Benson - August 22, 2011 at 11:45 AM

SP

*Ruth, You and your family are in my prayers.
Sharon Perkins*

Sharon Perkins - August 22, 2011 at 01:02 PM

MZ

“ *MaDonna Mazzuchi- Zasada lit a candle in memory of
William Paul Byrns*



MaDonna Mazzuchi- Zasada - August 22, 2011 at 10:34 AM

DA

“ *Don And Alice Anderson lit a candle in memory of William
Paul Byrns*



Don and Alice Anderson - August 21, 2011 at 05:03 PM

BW

Ruth, I am so sorry for your family's loss. My prayers are with you and your family.

Bobbi Wheeler - August 23, 2011 at 03:23 PM