



Elaine Byrd

October 8, 2015

Elaine Julia Kobylanski Byrd, 86, of West Hartford, Connecticut passed away peacefully October 8 following a brief illness. Elaine was born in Gary, Indiana to the late Wiktor Kobylanski and Stella Bikin Kobylanski. The family moved to St. Petersburg, Florida while she was in high school. She received her BA from Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, a MS in chemistry from Iowa State University, a MS in psychology from James Madison University, and a PhD in psychology from the University of Virginia. A long-time resident of Waynesboro, Virginia, she was employed as a psychologist at Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center and as a school psychologist in Augusta County, Virginia and Tarboro, North Carolina. She began her career teaching chemistry at Waynesboro High School. She was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma and various professional associations. She devoted much of her life to helping others. Among her numerous volunteer activities, she served as president of the local chapter of the American Association of University Women, president of the Alzheimer's' Association's Shenandoah Valley Chapter, and a member of the Valley Community Services Board. She was a deeply involved member of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, serving as parish secretary, a member of the parish council, a lay reader, and a Eucharistic minister. Elaine had a keen interest in politics and current affairs and a love of travel, making frequent trips in the US and abroad with friends. She also enjoyed theatre, symphony, lectures, and her beloved Blue Ridge Mountains. Elaine's family was very important to her and she visited them

regularly. She is survived by her sons Gregory Byrd and his wife Mary of Longmont, Colorado, and Christopher Byrd and his wife Kimberley of West Hartford, and four grandchildren: Elizabeth Byrd of Denver, Charles Byrd of Longmont, Edward Byrd of Boston, and Kent Byrd of West Hartford. She was preceded in death by her husband Carol Byrd. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, October 17, at 10 A.M. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 679 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford. The family will receive visitors on Friday, October 16 from 5-7 P.M. at Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford. Burial will be at Riverview Cemetery in Waynesboro at a future date. In lieu of flowers memorial gifts may be made to the Central and Western Virginia Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association (www.alz.org/cwva).

Previous Events

Calling Hours

OCT **16**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Molloy Funeral Home
906 Farmington Ave
West Hartford, CT 06119
(860) 232-1322

Memorial Service

OCT **17**. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. John's Episcopal Church
679 Farmington Ave
West Hartford, CT

Tribute Wall

NW

“ *Elaine and I was a dear friend ; she and I worked out at the YMCA together and she was my son; Nicholas's confirmation sponsor. I always said I wanted to be her when I grew old because she was so vibrant and active.*



Noreen Wright - October 21, 2015 at 02:29 PM

CS

“ *On behalf of the Board of Directors, membership and staff of the ECFC, we offer our condolences and know that you will find comfort in your loving memories. - Claire Shanley*

Claire Shanley - October 21, 2015 at 11:09 AM

MT

“ *I worked with Elaine in the Head Trauma Program at Woodrow Wilson Rehab Center. She had a warm and engaging personality and was deeply committed to advocacy for persons with disabilities. May you be comforted with the precious memories of her service-filled life.*
~Mike Turner



Michael Turner - October 19, 2015 at 04:01 AM

CR

“ Greg,
Mom and I are sending our thoughts to you and your brother. I read the comments of others and her obituary and see that she was an outstanding individual who lived a full and interesting life full of meaning and success. We are so sorry for your loss. Luv to you and Mary and the kids.
Cheryl Ross and Norma Gehringer (Mary's siter and mother)

Cheryl Ross - October 16, 2015 at 04:16 PM

 Peggy Bischof

“ Elaine was a welcoming presence, back in 2003, when my husband and I moved to VA and joined St. John's Catholic Church in Waynesboro. I admired her faithfulness in serving as a lector at Mass on a regular basis. She reached out to us in friendship and caring when she realized we were dealing with Alzheimer's, just as she had with her husband. Elaine invited both of us to join her in delivering meals to the homebound, something which brought us all great blessing. We shared lunches and dinners out with Elaine and Russell Culver, who also became a friend to us. Elaine's kindness will always be remembered and appreciated. My deepest condolences to all her family and friends. Peace!
Peggy Bischof

Peggy Bischof - October 16, 2015 at 11:29 AM

PW

“ Chris and Greg, so sorry to hear about your mom. I remember her always being so kind to me and the other hoodloms would invade her home while visiting you guys. I enjoyed talking politics with her later in life and I know how much she loved and cared for your dad. I know you will miss her as will all who knew her. Phil Witry



Phil Witry - October 15, 2015 at 09:41 PM

KN

“ Greg and Chris--I am so sorry to hear of your mother's passing. She was a wonderful person-- intelligent, kind and generous with her time and her considerable talents. Please know that our prayers are with you.

Kit Nichols (family friend from Waynesboro)

Katherine (Kit) Nichols - October 14, 2015 at 08:04 PM

CE

“ Hi guys. Your Mom was an outstanding lady, friend, and great traveler. Please know my thoughts and prayers are with you. Chris Edwards

Chris Edwards - October 14, 2015 at 05:28 PM

JF

“ *The Fife family is deeply saddened to hear of Elaine's passing. Elaine was like a second mom to the Fife boys (Christine Swann being the third). It was the classic neighborhood of 3 houses in a row where everyone looked out for everyone else. I used to mow Elaine's lawn, watch the beagle when she was gone, and just hang out next door.*

I remember her doing a Rorschach test on me back in the day but I don't remember the results (I think I passed).

I remember the road signs that the Byrd family made for us when we would drive our big wheels all throughout our shared driveway.

Most of all I remember how kind and caring she was. She will be missed. The Fife boys would be honored to attend the burial service at Ridgeview when that happens. Please let me know and I'll let Eric and Greg know. I can be reached at 540.241.3944 or jeffife@ntelos.net. I also have a picture on our wall of Greg Byrd with his other Y swimmers (circa 1967 I believe) wrapped around Buz Dawbarn's stairwell in his house.

Jeff Fife - October 14, 2015 at 08:30 AM