

Byron Toney

August 8, 1947 - August 3, 2024

Byron Toney, age 76, a 50-year resident of the Annapolis, MD area passed away August 3, 2024, in St. Augustine, FL. He was born in Oak Ridge, TN on August 8, 1947. The son of Arnold and Mary Toney, he was raised in Paducah, KY, and graduated from Paducah Tilghman High School in 1965 and Murray State University in 1969 with a Bachelor of Music Education Degree. Upon graduation from college, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy Music Program. He was stationed in Little Creek, VA from 1969-1971, serving on the USS Independence and USS Saratoga while deployed to the Mediterranean. Byron played tuba, string, and electric bass in the U.S. Naval Academy Band from January 1972 until retirement as a Senior Chief Musician (MUCS) in August 1990. While serving at the Naval Academy, he was in the Superintendent's Combo, the Dixie Land Band, and Ceremonial and Marching Units. He also acted as the band's supply and purchasing officer. Byron pursued his passion for music as a member of The New Moods, Doc Hochman Dixieland Band, and Zim Zemarel Band, performing throughout the Baltimore-Washington area. Byron was an active member of the Navy Musicians Association (NMA), the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA), and the American Legion. Upon retirement, he worked in band & orchestra instrument sales at Chuck Levin's Washington Music Center in Wheaton, MD, for over 25 years.

Byron is survived by his wife of 55 years, Cathy (Dowdy) Toney; four

daughters, Brenda (Brendon) Harper, Whitney (Eric) Wheeling, Rebecca (Shawn) Harper and Renae (Neil) Szymczak; and brother, Randy (Debbie) Toney. Byron's proudest honor was that of "Granddaddy" to his 12 grandchildren; Cullen, Presley, Keely, Patrick, Kyra, Molly, Braden, Ryan, Dean, Ellie, Gunnar, and Eve.

Over the years, in addition to Byron's musical career, he was President of the Cape St. Claire Garden Club, Chairman of the Board at the Naval Academy Primary School, Eucharistic Minister at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, adjunct faculty at Anne Arundel Community College, and a lifelong avid fisherman. For the past two years, Byron and Cathy resided in St. Augustine, FL.

Memorial contributions can be made to The Donna Foundation to benefit breast cancer research and patient support. <https://thedonnafoundation.org/>

A memorial service will be held on November 29, 2024, at 11 am ET at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in West River, MD.

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

NOV **29**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church
101 Owensville Road
West River, MD 20778

Tribute Wall

JR

“ Even a year later..... I still miss knowing Byron is around. Playing the drums next to his bass playing, at the Naval Academy Band, was always a joy. He was an outstanding musician but more importantly a great shipmate and friend. His humor was one of his trademarks... and you could always count on Byron for a funny story. I missed him this year at the Navy Musicians Association Reunion. He would always be one of the first of our group I would see.... and would always greet me with a huge smile. Rest now shipmate.... I we have the watch and save me a seat in the band.
Jim Richards

James Richards - August 01, 2025 at 09:21 AM

MR

I'm sorry to hear of his passing. I came across his business card today. For many, many years he assisted me at Chuck Levins. I'd call him and he'd set out flutes for my students to choose from. The best advice he ever gave was when I retired from TUSAB. "You know Maria, the best thing that will happen, they'll forget about you as soon as you walk out the door." He said it with a genuine smile on his face. Thank you, Byron. You in Heaven and your family will be in my prayers , always.



MARIA ROHDE - September 22, 2025 at 03:10 PM

DG

“ I have fond memories of hanging out with Byron in the electronics repair shop at the Naval Academy Band. I once put together a little headphone amplifier for use with 2 aircraft headsets. I had Byron check my work, and I was floored to hear him say I did a better job of soldering than he could do. I was blessed to house-sit for the family during one of their vacations, and accidentally got Cathy's beloved potted windowsill flowers to bloom...much to her shock! All in all, Byron will be greatly missed by me, and many others, with good cause. ,He was a true friend to so many.
Doug Goldsmith

Doug Goldsmith - September 13, 2024 at 02:03 AM

BJ

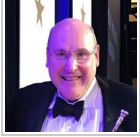
“ While playing euphonium in the Naval Academy Band I got to sit in the back row with Byron, Rabbit, and the tubas. It was sometimes hard to play because the comments during the concerts were hilarious. I am sad to hear of Byron's passing and have fond memories of his great musicianship and sense of humor.
Butch Jeffcoat

Butch Jeffcoat - August 24, 2024 at 12:45 AM

PM

“ Cathy, I fondly remember Byron and his friends playing great music at our 25 year wedding reception at the Cape St Claire clubhouse. They were so good! I am so very sorry for the loss to you and your family. I know you will all miss him terribly! Sent with love, Pat Miller

Patricia Ann Miller - August 22, 2024 at 06:41 PM



“ *Byron Toney was a great colleague, educator, musician and friend. We worked together for many years here at Chuck Levin’s selling band & orchestral instruments. His charming personality and clever wit made everyone’s day brighter. He taught me allot about business, music and life. Byron was truly a unique person and he will be missed. He truly made the world a better place. My deepest sympathy to his family. You did good buddy. May you rest in peace.*



Lee Walkowich - August 16, 2024 at 05:18 PM



“ *For the Toney family. I am very sorry to learn that Byron had passed away. He was the first veteran that I met at the monthly veteran’s breakfast. I was Navy air so we spent the entire time sharing memories of our Navy service. He was a fine man and will be missed at our monthly gathering. Please know my heart is with you during this most difficult of times.*



Don Campbell

Don Campbell - August 16, 2024 at 03:16 PM



“ *Even in your bereavement, please know that we have no doubt that Byron will be missed by many, a testament to a life well lived. He touched so many in a positive way; we should all strive to emulate his fine qualities.*
Jeffrey and Marcia Diehl, Martinsburg, WV



Jeffrey Diehl - August 09, 2024 at 05:55 AM

TT

“ Tom Travis lit a candle in memory of Byron Toney

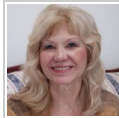


Tom Travis - August 08, 2024 at 01:09 AM

TT

Cathy, I am so sorry for your loss. My prayers are with you and your wonderful family.

Tom Travis - August 08, 2024 at 01:11 AM



Oh Cathy and family, I am devastated to hear this news. Byron was the salt of the earth, an amazing human being. I loved him dearly from the first day we met. Sending love and prayers and my deepest sympathy. I know his proudest asset in life was his beautiful family. May God comfort and bless you. Byron will always be the best Guardian Angel you could ever have.

Darlene Brandt - August 12, 2024 at 06:05 AM

CW

Dear Cathy, Larry and I are so sorry to hear of Byron's passing. We have warm memories of both of you and the girls. We had so much fun at NAPS parties. And remember the great music at Amy and John's wedding.

We are still in Bloomington, and even get to "Old Kentucky" once in a while. Love and hugs to all of you. Carol Weingartner

Carol Weingartner - September 09, 2024 at 10:36 PM



“ *William Thayer lit a candle in memory of Byron Toney* ”



William Thayer - August 07, 2024 at 07:58 PM