



Ronald Lee "Ron" Byrnside

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Ronald Lee "Ron" Byrnside, of St. Augustine, died on July 18, 2012, at the Samantha Wilson Care Center at Bayview. Born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio, Ron was a graduate of the Cincinnati Conservatory and went on to receive his Masters Degree from Yale University, and later a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois. Ron became a Professor of Music History and Theory, teaching at the University of Illinois, briefly at the University of Michigan and for many years at Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia. Upon retirement, he relocated to St. Augustine. He attended St. Anastasia Catholic Church and enjoyed working as a volunteer at Marineland. He is survived by his wife, Patricia Byrnside of St. Augustine; a son, Christopher Byrnside, and his wife, Shari, of Jacksonville Beach; a daughter, Rachel Byrnside and her dog, Sophie of St. Augustine; and granddaughters, Sarah Byrnside and Emma Byrnside. A memorial service will be held in Atlanta, Georgia at a later date. St Johns Family Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Tribute Wall

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“ I have only the warmest memories of Dr. Byrnside. He was chairman of the music department at Agnes Scott College where I was a music major 1976-1980. He was the gentlest, kindest, most encouraging instructor. He also knew how to make us all double over laughing! I remember how he encouraged me as a contemporary songwriter and as a vocalist. Once after a jury, he reacted quite emotionally to what he said was stunning growth in so short a period of time. I always knew he was pulling for me and looked to him for guidance. One of my funny and embarrassing memories is of seeing him in class after he had been to an Ash Wednesday mass. I was not familiar with the custom, having been raised Protestant, so I did not realize that I was not being helpful when I reached up to wipe the gray smudge off his forehead, saying, "you have dirt on your face." Poor guy, so gracious...he just sort of rolled his eyes and explained that he had actually intended for that mark to remain there. I felt an inch tall, yet when he snickered and just shook his head, I knew I was forgiven. Kemper Hatfield and I would sit right in front of him and enjoy his manner of teaching and his stories. Perhaps now the two of them are sharing a few more. I regret that I have not known how to get in touch with him all these years. He is one-of-a-kind. My condolences to Pat and the kids, whom I met when the kids were pretty young....The picture you have chosen for the memorial page perfectly captures his kind, caring spirit. God bless you all. I'd like to have flowers at the service at ASC if that is permissible.

Susan Dodson Shewbridge - August 31, 2012 at 12:00 AM