



Avance Byrd II

NOV 13, 1960 - JUL 8, 2024



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Avance Byrd II

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Avance Byrd Jr., 63 was born November 13th, 1960, to the proud parents of the late Rev. Avance Byrd Sr. and Sophie Mae Byrd. Avance made his transition on July 8th, 2024, from St. Joseph hospital in Tacoma, Washington to be with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Avance accepted Christ at an early age being baptized at First Baptist Church of Lakeland in Michigan City, Indiana. Later he moved his membership to Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist church under the leadership of the late Rev. D. T. Taylor, where he was a faithful member of the 'Voices of Zion', doing what he loved.

Avance grew up in Michigan City, Indiana. In high school, he played a vivid role in the 'Mini Singers Chorus' under the direction of Mr. Dale Truex only to begin his journey in music. Avance was a graduate of the 1979 class at Rogers High School, Michigan City, Indiana. He continued his education and graduated from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana where he received his Bachelor of Music Educational degree. While attending Indiana University he studied voice with the former Metropolitan Opera Baritone, Walter Cassel. Avance had the privileged opportunity to also appear in several well-known operas; Porgy and Bess, Soldier Boy, Soldier, Carmen, Showboat, Die Fledermaus and several others. In 1986, Avance relocated to Tacoma, Washington where he also performed in the Tacoma Opera, Everett Opera, and the Seattle Pro Arte Musica Ensemble; he was also a member of the 'Sound of the Northwest.' Not only was Avance gifted at singing operatic, but his extraordinary tenor voice allowed him to sing both classical and spiritual music. Upon arrival to Tacoma Washington, he joined Bethlehem Baptist church under the leadership of Dr. Freeman S. Rhodes.

Avance began his teaching career at Mason Middle School in Tacoma, WA, teaching music and choir. Avance then earned his Master of Arts in Leadership and Curriculum at Western Washington University. He moved on to become principal,



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serving at Boze, Wainwright, Grant, and Jefferson Elementary Schools. One of his proudest achievements was being awarded the Blue-Ribbon award from the United States Dept of Education recognizing exemplary public schools. After 30 years as an educator, he retired from Jefferson Elementary School. Avance was also a proud member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Organization.

Avance was an avid gardener and cook. He was affectionately known as 'Junior' by many who knew him. He was a lover of life and people, with a special love for his mother.

Avance was preceded in death by both parents, the late Rev. Avance Byrd Sr. And Sophie Byrd. One brother Godfrey Sylvester Byrd. He leaves to honor his legacy, his only dearly beloved son, Avance Trenton Byrd III (Miami, Florida). Three Sisters, Barbara Glover of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, Henrietta (Theophilus) Sandidge of Merrillville, Indiana, and Vernessa (Walter) Fry of Michigan City, Indiana. One brother Aron Byrd, Shoreline, Washington.

Avance had many nieces and nephews that he loved dearly along with the entire RWDL family. Lastly, his 4 pet Chihuahuas. Avance will always be remembered for his impact on future generations.

The entire family would like to thank the community, close friends, colleagues, and all those that knew him and supported him during his time in Tacoma, Washington.




Events


Avance Byrd II

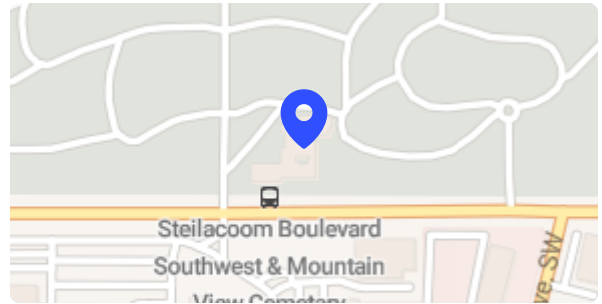
NOV 13, 1960 - JUL 8, 2024

Visitation

 **Tuesday**, July 23, 2024

 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM PT

 **Mountain View Funeral Home & Crematory**
4100 Steilacoom Blvd. SW, Lakewood WA 98499





Tribute Wall

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Kathy Brands posted:

I just read of Mr. Byrd's passing. He was principle at Wainwright Elementary when I was hired by him to work as a para educator, my first job at Tacoma public schools. Mr. Byrd was a great principal, and a kind person. He also had a quick wit, leaving me in stitches many times! My condolences to his son and his family. I am very sad to hear he is gone too young!Kathy Brands

September 20 at 7:10 AM



Herman Harp lit a candle in honor of Avance.

Herman HaRp lit a candle in memory of Avance Byrd

July 30 at 4:10 PM



Rita Furqaan posted:

I knew Avance for many years as a teacher and administrator in Washington State. His son and my son Rabbanni were in the same daycare. Avance would watch Rabbanni when I had other duties to attend. Rabbanni and I will miss him very much. My God enter you into the gates of heaven. We love you. Rita FurQaan

July 24 at 4:01 AM



Anonymous sent an Arrive in Style to the Byrd family.

July 22 at 7:40 AM



Georgette Carter-Sherls And Family planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Avance.

July 22 at 7:28 AM



Anonymous sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Byrd family.

July 22 at 7:28 AM





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RF

Rodney J.Figaro posted:

To the Family Knowing this Great guy and in reading about his passing is still a shock to me. It was a few years ago when he left the state it was a sad day for me because for many years he sang with the Sound of the Northwest in which I had join he was always friendly with me and we sang in the same section He was a Tenor 1 AND I SANG Tenor 2 He was so much fun to be around as a matter of fact when he left the choir to take care of other matters he gave me His suit and Tie in which I still have . Lord I'm out Here on your Word is one of the song that He Led on our CD. Blessing to the Family

July 21 at 9:34 PM

DM

Debbie Marks posted:

My prayers to the family. Advance was a special and kind person. We will be truly missed.

July 21 at 3:26 PM

TF

The Jones Family sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Byrd family.



July 21 at 12:20 PM

CA

Cathy posted:

So sorry for your loss. I grew up with the Byrd family in Lakeland. Avance was always a kind soul. May God hold and comfort and strengthen your family.God Bless, Cathy Cotton Ward

July 21 at 12:04 PM

EC

Elizabeth Cissy Conley posted:

My condolences to the family. Sorry for your loss. Sending prayers 🙏❤️ to the family.

July 21 at 1:37 AM



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Raphael Jones-Ashanti lit a candle in honor of Avance.

I have known Junior my entire life. We started out in the Children's Choir @FirstBaptistofLakeland in Michigan City, IN singing "We are soldiers in the army." We had a special relationship- friendship and kinship. Avance Byrd Jr is now singing in the heavenly choir. Sincerest condolences to the family. 🙏 God's Peace. 🙏



July 20 at 5:07 PM



Jamell Moore Sr lit a candle in honor of Avance.

When Avance the 3rd & I were in middle school; after band concerts his dad Avance Jr (Mr. Byrd is what I called him) would take us to dairy queen for ice cream. At that time in my life, my father was not around. Mr. Byrd showed me love & kindness as if I was apart of the family. I will forever be grateful for the love of Jesus Christ Mr. Byrd always showed! My condolences & prayers to my friend Avance as well as the entire family!



July 20 at 11:03 AM

BO **Barbara Oliver** July 28 at 5:29 PM

My heart felt Condolences and Prayers to Trenton and the Byrd Family . I grew up with Junior Byrd also in Lakeland and graduated in same class as well in high school. Junior was always a pleasure to be around, kept you laughing, always singing awesome person, will truly be missed. Continues Prayers.



Anonymous sent a Florist Choice Bouquet to the Byrd family.



July 19 at 10:42 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Avance by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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