



## Dr. Harold Stanley Roy Byrdy

May 30, 1936 - March 21, 2023

Harold Stanley Roy Byrdy, MD died Tuesday, March 21 at the Community Living Center at the Edward P. Boland Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Leeds, MA, after a valiant struggle against the effects of Agent Orange and lately, Covid.

Harold was born in Pittsfield, on May 30, 1936, to Louis S. and Helen Mischczak Byrdy. He and his sister and brothers grew up in an atmosphere of music, intellectual stimulation and artistic creativity. Harold, throughout his life played the harp, piano and violin he learned as a child and never passed up an opportunity to sing, whether classical, Polish or Broadway show tunes. He was an erudite, sharply witty, intelligent, often playful man, who could converse on a seemingly endless variety of topics.

Harold graduated from Pittsfield High School in 1953, Williams College in 1957 and Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in 1961. He interned at the hospitals & clinics of the University of Chicago and completed his residency in psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

In fulfillment of his obligations to the Berry Plan, Captain Byrdy was the Medical Corps, US Army Division psychiatrist with the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) from August 1965 to June 1966. He was later assigned to the Psychiatric Section at Valley Forge Army Hospital from 1966-1967.

Upon his return to civilian life, Dr Byrdy practiced at the Penn Psychiatric Service at Philadelphia General Hospital from 1967-1975. From 1978-2003, he was a Senior Staff Psychiatrist at Silver Hill Hospital in New Canaan, CT. During that time, he was Chief of Adult Psychiatric Service from 1979-1998.

Harold met Paula Coughlin in German Class at Pittsfield High School in 1952. They married on June 17, 1978 at Sacred Heart Church in Pittsfield and continued their travels until Harold's infirmity constricted their life.

They never missed a high school or class reunion, family or friend's wedding, birthday, or any other celebration. Their passports were stamped on five of the seven continents where they skied, hiked and reveled in new experiences. They travelled far and wide in their quest to experience culturally significant events.

He and Paula loved opera, theater, books and classical music.

They especially enjoyed hosting parties at their homes, first in Wilton, Ct and, for the last decade, in Lanesboro, MA. Their family relished summer picnics, by the pool, at their home on Prospect St.

Harold maintained decades-long friendships and correspondence with his classmates from college and medical school, the military and his professional colleagues.

Harold is survived by his devoted wife, Paula, his sister Doris Albrecht of Pittsfield, and his nephews Edward L Byrdy, Jr (Crystie) of Olney, MD and Christopher B Byrdy (Mary Beth) of Haymarket, VA, his great nephews Edward III, Michael, Matthew and Andrew, and his great nieces, Kaitlyn and Charlotte. He also leaves his sister-in-law, Mary O'Brien (Robert) of Lenox and dozens of 3 generations of Coughlin, White and O'Brien nephews and

nieces. He was predeceased by his brothers, Ervin T (Helen) and Edward L, Sr (Anne) and his nephew, Kitson Byrdy.

Harold's family regrets that no words can fully convey our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for the wonderful, conscientious, professional care he received from the CLC in Leeds. Everyone there, the medical staff, the social workers and the support staff, performed acts of kindness on a regular basis and reinforced our belief that the importance of Harold's military service was respected to his final days.

Funeral Notice:

Funeral services for Dr. Harold Stanley Roy Byrdy will be private. Memorial contributions in Harold's name may be made to the Disabled American Veterans in care of the Dwyer-Wellington Funeral Home.

# Cemetery Details

## **St. Joseph Cemetery**

222 Peck's Rd.  
Pittsfield, MA 01201

# Tribute Wall

FF

“ Dear Paula,

*I did not know Harold well but I wish I could have Known you both. I played cello with wonderful members of the symphonies of Minnesota, Denver and Chicago and was fortunate to be a pioneer in the field of Transplantation. I loved to teach, so, at 87 years, I am still teaching at Loyola University in Chicago. I am sorry for your loss and wish you well. my wife died in September 2021 and so I experienced some of what you have to contend with. we were together from 1983 and had worked together. It was very hard. But she required a care giver, a wonderful Ukranian grandmother of 2 boys. I found that I needed help and so she now works for me during the week and accompanes me to concerts and operas and travels me, so far to Vienna, Salzburg and Lake Constance. She has a masters degree from the University of Lviv and so she teaches with me at Loyola. I believe she is a gift from my dear wife who was 94 when she died with me at her side in our home.*

*So, I hope you will be able to find the support you will need in order to continue your life enjoying family, friends and the Arts.*

*My Best Regards,*

*Fred Merkel '61 .*

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**Frederick K. Merkel, MD, FACS** - April 01, 2023 at 03:05 PM

DC

“ Dear Paula: Harold was a classmate of mine at Hopkins Medical School. We shared an amazing four years as medical students and neither of us missed attending a reunion. Our class had a very strong bond. I always enjoyed talking with him and enjoyed his gracious smile and sly wit. He always made me feel richer when we talked. I am so sorry for your loss. We will all miss him. Darryl Carter '61

Darryl Carter - March 28, 2023 at 04:39 PM



“ One of the highlights of returning to Hopkins '61 Med school reunion was seeing the smiling face of Harold who always made me feel welcome. I was happy I had the chance to introduce my second wife, Susan, to Harold and Paula at the 50th reunion. Curtis Krock

Curtis Krock - March 28, 2023 at 04:22 PM

KO

“ 3 files added to the album Harold



Kate OBrien - March 25, 2023 at 07:41 PM

CM

“ I extend condolences to my classmate Harold's family on his passing. I'm proud of him for the full and productive life he lead. Harold is a tribute to our Johns Hopkins Class of 1961. I remember his dry, wry wit and love of music. Clyde L. Olson, M.D. (Savannah, GA)

clyde l. olson, m.d. - March 25, 2023 at 06:10 PM

EB

“ 2 files added to the album *Photos of Harold*



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**Edward Busse** - March 25, 2023 at 11:57 AM