



## Mr. Braudy Emerson Byrd Jr.

March 23, 1941 - June 17, 2015

Funeral services for Braudy Emerson Byrd Jr., 74, will be held at 3:00 pm Sunday, June 21, 2015 at Emmanuel Baptist Church.

The Rev. Joey Colson will officiate with burial in Antioch Baptist Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm on Saturday at Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home Chapel.

Emerson died Wednesday, June 17, 2015. Born and raised in Hartsville, SC, he was the son of the late Braudy Emerson and Virginia O'Neal Byrd, Sr. He was the oldest of five children and enjoyed music at an early age. He was a member of the touring beach music band, The Caravelles, of Clemson until 1965 when he graduated from Clemson University with a degree in Industrial Management. That year he married his loving wife, Billie Anne Kelley. After graduation, he worked for a short time at GAF Corporation. Later, he worked for French chemical companies, Rhone-Poulenc and Rhodia, as a Regional Sales Manager. There he helped set-up US sales operations and worked in Cincinnati, OH, Cranbury, NJ, and Greenville, SC until his retirement.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Billie Anne Kelley Byrd of Hartsville; son Braudy E. Byrd III ("Tripp") of Hartsville; daughter-in-law Amelia Manson Byrd; grandchildren Whitt Joseph Byrd and Virginia Ruth Byrd; brothers, Gerald Byrd of Darlington and Felix "Tuffy" Byrd of Hartsville; sisters, Brenda Funderburk of Hartsville and Wanda Rhodes of Myrtle Beach.

The family remembers Emerson as a humble man of God and asks that donations in his name be made to Missionaries of Emmanuel Baptist Church,

1001 Marquis Highway, Hartsville, SC 29550.

# Cemetery Details

## Antioch Baptist Church Cemetery

Intersection of New Hopewell Rd & Tol Rd  
Hartsville, SC

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JUN 20.** 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home  
306 W. Home Ave.  
Hartsville, SC 29550  
(843) 332-6531  
[info@bpafuneralhome.com](mailto:info@bpafuneralhome.com)  
<http://www.bpafuneralhome.com>

## Service

**JUN 21.** 3:00 PM (ET)

Emmanuel Baptist Church  
949 N. Marquis Hwy.  
Hartsville, SC 29550

# Tribute Wall

ER

“ *ELAINE CHAPMAN RHYNE lit a candle in memory of Mr. Braudy Emerson Byrd Jr.*



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**ELAINE CHAPMAN RHYNE** - June 22, 2015 at 01:59 PM

NS

“ *Nikki J. Samuel lit a candle in memory of Mr. Braudy Emerson Byrd Jr.*



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**Nikki J. Samuel** - June 20, 2015 at 09:28 PM

BW

“ *Becky Wadsworth Walker lit a candle in memory of Mr. Braudy Emerson Byrd Jr.*



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**Becky Wadsworth Walker** - June 20, 2015 at 07:00 PM

CN

“ *It was such an honor to have known Mr. Byrd. He has always been so nice and kind to me. Mrs. Billie, Tripp, Amelia and family, you are all in my thoughts and prayers. May God comfort you in this time of sorrow!*



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**Claudia Nettles** - June 20, 2015 at 12:57 PM

JB

“ Emerson was a good friend and beloved classmate of my HHS class of 1959. Tap dancing was my talent, so it was often that I would appear in the same talent shows as "the singing Byrd family" with their incredible singing voices. One year Tuffy won the State Farm Talent Contest as a little kid and Elsie Jenkins and I came in second with our jitterbug tap. Emerson decided to take up tap dancing also, late in high school. So we all wound up sitting by each other in Sara McKnight's School at the National Guard Armory. I remember one afternoon we both happened to need to go to the restroom together during a break while waiting for our classes. When we came out into the front foyer, he and I exchanged jokes about what we saw in the classes and giggled about Sara's skimpy black leotard and tofu skirt. When we walked back to our chairs, Dot DeWitt and our parents asked us what we were laughing about. We looked at each other and clammed up. I am proud to have known this whole family and heard them singing so many times since I was very young. I can imagine Emerson singing with the angels now. And those Musical Foxes, never forget how many times we had school dances with them providing that great music. Last time I saw him was at the 50th reunion of dancers from Sara McKnight School and Johnny and Margie's Dance World. He and Brenda were there and I loved seeing them and their beautiful smiles then. I was on the planning committee for that reunion. We should have asked them to sing for us then! Thanks for the memories, man. You will be missed by many.

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**Jimmy Ballard** - June 19, 2015 at 10:33 PM

KG

“ Kent And Linda Watson Gainey lit a candle in memory of Mr. Braudy Emerson Byrd Jr.



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**Kent and Linda Watson Gainey** - June 19, 2015 at 10:38 AM

GO

“ As a young person I remember attending many of the talent contest that he entered as a singer. I can not remember a time that he did not win. He was a very talented musician who touched many lives through his musical talents. You will be missed cuz.

*Gene ONeal*

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**Gene ONeal** - June 18, 2015 at 09:38 PM

LT

“ Linda Thompson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Brady Emerson Byrd Jr.



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**Linda Thompson** - June 18, 2015 at 08:37 PM

TO

“ He was a pioneer of all the cousins since he was the oldest. His leaving for Clemson said to all the cousins, you can make it out there---spread your wings. He will be missed by many. Tom and Dawn O'Neal

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**Tom O'Neal** - June 18, 2015 at 04:38 PM

JP

“ Brenda sorry for your loss.

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**Jimmy Peavy** - June 18, 2015 at 08:38 AM

JO

*We were long time friends in our youth, in Dr. Turbeville's Hartsville High School Musical Red Foxes, went to Boys State together, graduated high school together, went to Clemson together, and played together for several years in the Clemson Jungaleer's Dance Orchestra. We used to hunt on his family land for dove and quail. He sang at my wedding and I remember attending his. He sang there too, because he had a marvelous voice. As we got older we went our separate ways. When Billie Ann and Emerson returned to Hartsville, I promised to visit them but I didn't. The moral of this is DO NOT WAIT too long. Only God knows his plan for each of us and He calls us home when He is ready. I already miss "Emo" and will always remember him.*  
*"Jimmy" Ousley*

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**Jim Ousley** - June 18, 2015 at 08:00 PM

GM

*My sincere sympathy to the family. Emerson and I were high school classmates and friends. We shared many hours of fun and mischief, such as stealing gas out of his dad's tractors to put into our cars. Did not see him often after he left Hartsville, but will treasure the memories and friendship.*

*Goode Mobley*

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**goode mobley** - June 19, 2015 at 09:55 AM

TF

*Tripp, Amelia, and all family,*  
*It was with much sadness that we learned of Mr. Byrd's passing. We kept up with events on FB and kept him in our prayer journal. I know his wife will be lost. That's why we finally moved in with mom when, at 75, she became too ill to stay by herself. Our prayers go out to your entire family as, as humans you must grieve. God's strength, comfort, and mercy be with you in all things. God bless. Love, Raymond and Teresa Fisher and The Fisher Family*

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**Teresa Fisher** - June 19, 2015 at 09:56 AM

SL

*It was the summer of our junior year that I returned to Hartsville and became very involved with the singing group at HHS as well as the school choir. That Emerson was a singer is a total surprise to me. Not once do I recall an inclination for music. It was in our junior and senior English classes that I came to know Emerson. We both excelled in the subject and delighted in the fact. Emerson wrote in my '58 Retrospect: "I will always remember the English class and all the fun we have had in there." What I remember most about Emerson was his kindness and his love of learning. Those two attributes paved the way for a successful and happy life. My deepest sympathy is extended to all those who loved Emerson.----- Simone Barrett Laurence*

**Simone Barrett Laurence** - June 19, 2015 at 04:01 PM

GE

*Thoughts and prayers to the family.  
Gene and Elaine Hubbard*

**Gene and Elaine** - June 19, 2015 at 04:09 PM

GM

*Brenda and Wanda: Please accept my sincere condolences on the loss of your brother. I truly sympathize with you; I lost a beloved brother also. May God wrap his loving arms around your entire family during this time.*

**Gayle McDonald** - June 19, 2015 at 08:26 PM

WW

*Brenda, I admired Emerson for the patience & kindness he showed to me as a kid in grammar school when all of us were taking piano/voice lessons from Mrs. Laura Reynolds. He always encouraged me to sing & gave lots of "tips" on how to deliver a song. The first time I ever heard "Jerusalem, The Holy City," Emerson sang it. I never heard anyone else sing it better than he did. Then in high school - he was so talented - playing that sax and singing! He & the Musical Foxes played and sang back-up for me when a bus-load of us traveled to Fort Jackson to entertain the soldiers. What little rehearsing we did was on the bus. I was scared silly. Evidently, he noticed - sat down beside me on the bus & gave me the courage I needed to sing that day. I know what it's like to lose a brother; I've lost two. I know what it's like to lose a sister; again, I've lost two. I feel your heartache. Harry & I are praying for you and all of Emerson's family*

**Wayne S. Wallace** - June 19, 2015 at 09:12 PM

BM

*Billie, I am sorry to have missed the visitation for Emerson yesterday as I was out of town. I have been praying for you and all your family this week and will continue to do so. May you feel God's loving arms around you and experience the peace that only He can give us. Love,  
Billie McManus*

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**Billie McManus** - June 21, 2015 at 06:28 PM