



## Howard Edmund Byrne Jr.

June 30, 1937 - December 27, 2020

Howard Edmund Byrne Jr., 83, of Traverse City, passed into eternal life on December 27, 2020 at his home.

Howard was born on June 30, 1937 in Detroit. He was raised in Royal Oak by his parents, Howard Sr. and Olive Florence (Severy) Byrne. He married the love of his life, Mary Ellen on June 27, 1964 in Northville.

He attended the grade school and high school of the National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica in Royal Oak and was a student of the Reverend Charles E. Coughlin. He later was a board member at the high school. He graduated from the University of Detroit College of Commerce and Finance in 1960 and the Detroit College of Law in 1963.

Howard was then employed by the Jim Robbins Company in Troy, MI as Manager of Human Resource. After 10 years he joined the United States Postal Service. He was employed as the manager of employee and labor relations at the Detroit Bulk Mail Center and then became Manager of Labor Relations at the Detroit Post Office and Sectional Center. During one year of his stay in Detroit, he handled more arbitration cases than anyone else in the country for the postal service. He then transferred to the position of Director of Employee and Labor Relations at the Royal Oak Post Office and Sectional Center until he was promoted as Postmaster at the Eastpointe Michigan Post Office. He also served as a Hearing Officer for the United States Postal Service Central Region. Howard retired in 1997 and moved to Traverse City.

For many years, Howard was the proud owner of a 1923 Bickel International Fire Engine and enjoyed taking it to Greenfield Village with the family and participating in local parades and events.

Howard volunteered at the Maritime Heritage Alliance where he helped on the reconstruction of the boat Welcome for 10 years. He then continued to work on smaller boats and then on very small boats when he opened a model shop at the Maritime Heritage Alliance.

Howard was a member and past president of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Bun Brady Division. One of the highlights of the year for Howard was St. Patrick's Day and the Hibernian Parade in Traverse City, where he was privileged to be named a Lord Mayor. He was a member of the Bun Brady Division Ancient Order of Hibernians, Sons of the

Union Veterans, The Traverse City Economics Club and a devout member of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Mapleton.

Howard is survived by his wife, Mary Ellen (Crusoe) Byrne of 56 years, his daughter Virginia Marie Abramson (Joseph), son Howard Edmund Byrne III and grandson Brandon Michael Byrne. He was predeceased by his parents and is survived by a sister Laura Florence McLaughlin and a brother William Michael Byrne and several cousins, nieces and nephews.

The family thanks the staff at Munson Healthcare Hospice for their assistance in making a long journey easier.

Those wishing to consider a memorial donation can contribute to Saint Joseph Catholic Church, 12675 Center Road, Traverse City, MI 49686, Father Fred Foundation, 826 Hastings Street, Traverse City, MI 49686 or the Maritime Heritage Alliance, 13268 S W Bay Shore Drive, Traverse City, MI 49684.

Visitation from 5:00-6:00 PM followed by the Rosary at St. Joseph Catholic Church on Old Mission Peninsula, Wednesday, December 30, 2020. Visitation at 9:00 AM followed by Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 AM, Thursday December 31, 2020. Please visit [www.StJosephTC.org](http://www.StJosephTC.org) to view the live stream of Howard's service.

Please share a memory with Howard's family by visiting his tribute page at [www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com](http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com). The Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services is serving the family.

# Events

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**DEC**   **Visitation**                      05:00PM - 06:00PM

**30**

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St. Joseph Catholic Church

12675 Center Road, Traverse City, MI, US, 49686

**DEC**   **Visitation**                      09:00AM - 10:00AM

**31**

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St. Joseph Catholic Church

12675 Center Road, Traverse City, MI, US, 49686

**DEC**   **Mass of Christian Burial**    10:00AM

**31**

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St. Joseph Catholic Church

12675 Center Road, Traverse City, MI, US, 49686

**DEC**   **Graveside Service**    11:15AM

**31**

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St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery

12675 Center Road, Traverse City, MI, US, 49686

# Comments

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“ I met Howard through the Maritime Heritage Alliance. It would be nice to remember the first time we met but as often happens, we can't pinpoint an exact time of meeting a person who becomes a good friend.

We worked together on making his Modelers' Shop dream a reality; we also worked together on finding a large 'table' that had been made (by Howard and others) from a section of the Welcome, a sloop that MHA had owned and Howard had spent time refurbishing. It had been lost for a few years and then was found just before being destroyed. It brought tears to his eyes to have it back with MHA.

We had great discussions on politics and sports (Go Green!) and Ireland. He was a big help when my husband and I traveled to Ireland, giving us tips as to where to go, what to see and what to drink!

He and MaryEllen reserved spots for us at their table for the annual St. Patrick's Day celebration for several years. We celebrated at North Peak, State Street Grill and finally, Kilkenny's. We walked in the parades together. He had me carry a flag one year, which, later, it was found I should not have carried that particular one!

During the Michigan Covid 'shutdown,' I received a magazine, The Viking, which comes to members of the Sons of Norway organization. There was an article about a 3-masted schooner, the Fram, built by Norwegian scientist-explorer Nansen to explore the Arctic Ocean/North Pole. I sent the article to Howard, knowing he'd enjoy reading it. He called as soon as he received it, and asked "Would you like me to make you a model of this boat?" WOW! YES! In spite of being in treatment for the cancer, he built that model in about two weeks!

He was a remarkable individual. He loved his family and was proud of each one of them. He enjoyed life, and he was content! CONTENT! We spent several lovely evenings with him and MaryEllen in the last several months after his diagnosis. Every time we saw him, he said how content he was and he trusted the Lord and it was all good.

A man of dignity; a man of integrity; a man of God.

I miss knowing you're nearby but am comforted to know where you are.



**Sherri Freels** - January 07 at 03:11 PM

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“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



**Ross Richardson** - December 31, 2020 at 10:42 AM

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“ Mr. Byrne was always so kind. I worked for him at the Royal Oak Office. He was a gentleman and a mentor. My husband, Sheldon, and I offer your family our heartfelt condolences.

**Diane Dzodin** - December 30, 2020 at 04:26 PM

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“ So many AOH meetings where I would hear at the roll call. “Howard Byrne” followed by “Howard Byrne”. ... And until we meet again... Godspeed and condolences to the family.  
Dave Swan

**David Swan** - December 29, 2020 at 05:39 PM

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“ Dear Mary Ellen, Ginnie, Howard and Brendan,  
Barry and I were very sorry to hear of Howard’s passing. We were pleased to have shared many Christmas Eves with your family. We always enjoyed talking with Howard and sharing an annual toast of Irish Mist! You are in our thoughts and prayers. We pray that all of your best memories are a source of comfort and that the love and support of family and friends give you comfort and strength. God bless.

**cynthia m. wolf** - December 29, 2020 at 01:36 PM

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“ Dear Mary Ellen,  
I remember the day I first met your wonderful Howard. It was the first time I came to your home for a Christmas celebration. He was not only a genial host, warmly supporting your commitment to the DAR and to the Job Winslow chapter, but also sharing stories about the beautiful woodwork artistry in your home. Later, I think it was the following year, I greatly enjoyed his hosting of the tour aboard the Welcome, and the story of its history. Howard's warmth and his generous sharing of knowledge made him one of the most delightful people to spend time with. I am grateful for having known him. The world is a better place for his having been here.  
I pray peace and grace for you.  
Love,  
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**Tina N Fields** - December 29, 2020 at 10:06 AM

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“ I'm so sorry to hear of your loss. Hugs!

Thora Goodnight  
Midland

**Thora** - December 28, 2020 at 10:28 PM

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“ Mary Ellen, Howard and Family, I was just so sad to hear of Howard's passing. He was just a Wonderful man that Bill and I were proud to call him our friend, I feel fortunate to have known him for so many years. He was always so kind to everyone and always with a smile!!! The Old Mission Peninsula and St Joe's Church lost another one of the BEST, and Heaven just gained an Angel. My prayers and love to all of you. Monica

**Monica Hoffman** - December 28, 2020 at 08:26 PM

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“ Dr. Kathryn Wilson lit a candle in memory of Howard Edmund Byrne Jr.



**Dr. Kathryn Wilson** - December 28, 2020 at 08:07 PM

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“ Howard and I used to meet in the winter in the modelers shop, now the Howard Byrne Modelers shop of The Maritime Heritage Alliance. We'd argue politics while his Irish tenors were singing. He had great talent and I treasured him as a friend. I send my condolences to his family.  
Doug Roberts

**Doug Roberts** - December 28, 2020 at 07:58 PM



“ I knew Howard as a modeler at the Maritime Heritage Alliance. To understand how good Howard was at his craft, one only has to look around MHA to see how prolific and knowledgeable he was about ships, boats and all things nautical. Fortunately Howard, along with good humor and a gift of gab, shared this knowledge so his work will be carried on by other generations.

My condolences to his family.

Frank Clements

**frank clements** - December 29, 2020 at 03:30 PM