



## Mr. Birch Evans Bayh Jr.

January 22, 1928 - March 14, 2019

Former United States Senator Birch Bayh (D-Ind.), author of the 25th and 26th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution and author of Title IX of the Higher Education Act, and one of the last surviving leaders of a heroic age in American progressive politics, died shortly after midnight at his home in Easton, Md. He was 91. He was surrounded by family. He is survived by his wife, Katherine “Kitty” Bayh (née Halpin), and two sons: former Indiana senator and governor Birch Evans Bayh III, known as Evan, and Christopher J. Bayh, an attorney and partner at Barnes & Thornburg in Indianapolis. He leaves four grandchildren.

A memorial gathering will be held from 6-8 PM on Friday, March 15, 2019 at Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, PA, 200 S. Harrison St., Easton, MD.

Memorial contributions may be made in Mr. Bayh’s honor to a charity of your choice.

# Cemetery

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# Events

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**Arlington National Cemetery**

**MAR  
15**

**Visitation**

06:00PM - 08:00PM

Arlington, VA,

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Easton Location

200 South Harrison St., Easton, MD, US, 21601

# Comments

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“ My thoughts and prayers go out to the entire Bayh family.

As a young college student from Indiana University in Bloomington I will never forget visiting then Senator Birch Bayh's office in DC about the Vietnam War and other issues of the day. We so admired his leadership on so many issues. His work with Title IX has made such a difference for young girls ever since. I remember working on the first Title IX plan for Indiana University which would not have occurred but for his vision and leadership. He worked so hard to solve the problems of the day. His common sense and thoughtful approach in the Senate is truly missed. And, his easy style with constituents was always a blessing, too.

May all these warm memories comfort you all at this time.

Deepest sympathies,  
Clarine Nardi Riddle

**Clarine Nardi Riddle** - March 19 at 11:50 AM

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“ Dear family of Birch:

I can remember attending school with Birch at Fayette High School where Birch was a year ahead of me.

I lived in Sandford, which was across the line in Illinois. My best friend, Bertha Mae McConkey Standfield was in the same class as Birch at Fayette High School.

He lived with his grandmother as I did and I remember going to Shirkieville and visiting at his grandmother's house.

In later years, Birch and Marvella attended the Methodist Church in downtown Terre Haute (Centenary United Methodist Church) where he taught Sunday School.

I remember when Evan was born and came home from the hospital with Birch and Marvella. We got to meet Evan then.

May God bless you.

Wanda Selvia Froderman

**Pamela Blesch** - March 18 at 01:33 PM

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“ Senator. Birch Bayh taught me how to eat a tomato without getting it all over myself, he told me stories i can't share here, he made me laugh during the campaigns I assisted him in. The Senator came to Wabash Junior High School Auditorium and gave a speech to my classmates. In 1974 when i could not yet vote I campaigned door to door for him in Wabash county, Indiana. I continued campaigning all around the state and ended my last campaign with him in 1980. I saw him was at the 1980 Indiana state Democratic convention at Indianapolis and last talked with him in 1988 when as an elected Delegate from Wabash county Indiana to the Democratic state Convention at Indianapolis I voted to make his son our state's next Governor. Birch Bayh was a mentor to me and I will never forget his kindness. My sympathy's to his family.

Colonel Kenneth Crace  
P. O. Box 19  
Wabash, Indiana 46992



**Kenneth R. Crace** - March 18 at 11:56 AM

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“ The Conrad family was touched by Birch Bayh when I was a child. My parents campaigned alongside him and shared his dreams for our nation and for Indiana. My heart goes out to Evan's family, Chris' family and Kitty. Much love. Amy Conrad Warner

**Amy Warner** - March 17 at 05:28 PM

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“ Birch Bayh was a young state legislator when I first met him in 1957 at a Democratic Party rally in Brownstown at the Jackson County Fairgrounds. He was campaigning for the party's U.S. Senate nomination and shared the platform with Claude Wicker and Vance Hartke (who would win the 1958 nomination and election.) Birch was a friendly, energetic speaker and in person had a self-effacing sense of humor with a dash of Midwestern wry. Eight years later, Birch was well into his first term as a U.S. Senator when I arrived in D.C.as a slightly older reporter, and by 1966 I found myself covering the Indiana delegation for newspapers in the chain I worked for. Covering Senator Bayh's office and his activities related to local and national issues was an exciting part of the beat, and the Senator's common sense and good natured wit were refreshing influences on the often grim Washington days of the 1960s and '70s. He stood for what, in my opinion, were the right things, and he was a good guy. He

and Marvella invited us and other media folks to their home and were gracious and easygoing hosts. It was gratifying to see his career grow from that long ago summer day in Brownstown and also that his sons benefited from his good works and the guidance of a remarkable father. Senator Bayh, his family and extraordinary staff are among the happy memories my wife Kitty and I have of our days in the Capitol. Thanks to Birch Bayh and blessings to his family for valued service and jobs well done.

**John Simonds** - March 15 at 10:47 PM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Birch Evans Bayh Jr..



March 15 at 05:01 PM

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“ Because of the efforts of Mr. Bayh, my generation as well as the many others to follow have been allowed to have the same educational opportunities. May you rest in peace.



**Joan Gannon** - March 15 at 04:06 PM

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“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Birch Evans Bayh Jr..



March 15 at 12:48 PM

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“ Matthew Stachler lit a candle in memory of Mr. Birch Evans Bayh Jr.



Matthew Stachler - March 15 at 07:53 AM

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“ Birch may have been Indiana's Senator, but he became our neighbor and good friend. I still remember the Sunday that he knelt at the same rail for communion as Donald Rumsfeld. It seemed such a metaphor for how unimportant are our differences before God. His humility, generosity and wonderful sense of humor will be missed by all who were privileged to know him.



Phil Foster - March 15 at 02:30 AM

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“ When I was in grade school. I remember sending a letter to Senator Bayh and received a nice response.  
He was a great Senator. My condolences to the Bayh family.  
Sincerely,  
Jay Dehority

Jay Dehority - March 14 at 10:37 PM



“ He was a member of the United States Senate when it was filled with great statesmen public servants of the highest order. Like many that passed civil rights legislation, clean air and water legislation and title IX equal rights legislation. He ranks with the best of the best. Yet, I will always remember he took time to talk to a young intern as we rode the tram from the Russell Senate Office Building over to the Senate. He was a fine man who exemplified what it means to be a public servant. There is quite a reunion going on in Heaven. The members of the 94th Congress are welcoming him home. A job well done Senator.

Mike McIntyre - March 16 at 10:19 AM



“ While Title IX and the 25th and 26th Amendments are rightfully named as important legacies of Senator Bayh, he has another legacy that should be a model for every politician today. He accomplished so much on these landmark and other issues because he knew the importance of working closely with all members of Congress, Democrats and Republicans alike; and they responded well to him because they trusted him, and admired his high ethical standards.

As the assistant director of the American Bar Association's Washington Office at the time, I had the privilege of working side by side with the senator to help him craft the 25th Amendment and provide "back home" support for it. I saw first-hand his tireless energy in crafting the Amendment, and in personally convincing his colleagues, Republicans as well as Democrats, one-by-one, that it was needed and the right way to go. For example, he won over Republican Senator Kenneth Keating, who had a long standing opposite view on the wording; and, most of all, brought along Senate Republican leader Dirksen whose support was imperative. When the public reads about a legislator's leadership on a new bill, it's generally not understood how much personal effort, sometimes over several years, goes into its success.

Senator Bayh was the practical legislator, not the kind of give-no-inch ideologue that seems to be the norm today; and we can thank him for the lessons that he taught about this. Hopefully, for the country's sake, we'll return to those times when we acknowledge, as did Senator Bayh, that the public has many varied and strongly held views, and it's the legislator's role to find the necessary common ground.

I will always be grateful for the unique privilege I had in knowing Birch Bayh, and being able to consider him a friend. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. My wife, Myrna, and I send our deepest sympathy to Kitty and the entire Bayh family.

Lowell Beck  
Burr Ridge, Illinois

**Lowell Beck** - March 18 at 07:29 PM