



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, Mr. Bayh 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 Details

Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington, VA

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 15. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Easton Location

200 S Harrison St

Easton, MD 21601

(410) 822-3131

info@fhfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Birch Evans Bayh Jr.*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Birch Evans Bayh Jr.*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Birch Evans Bayh Jr.*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM

GG

“ We have two stories we have told repeated over the years about Birch: what he meant to us and what he meant to Indiana.

I had just become president of the Richmond Classroom Teachers Association when expected to be the Master of Ceremonies for the annual American Education Week Dinner at Earlham College. The dinner was on Monday night just before the November election the next day. I had prepared my "Thank You" remarks to Birch for after his speech. Well, when it came to public education, Birch, as he always did, hit a home run. So, when I went to the podium, I turned to Birch, told him I had prepared remarks, but did not need them, and proceeded to rip the papers up and thrown them over the front of the podium.

A year, or so, later I had a early morning committee meeting in the ISTA Building. I had just gone through the revolving front door and was standing at the elevator, when Ann Cummings, ISTA Communications Director came up the stairs from a Muskie breakfast in the basement Mural Room. We greeted each other and she inquired, "Have you met Senator Muskie?" I responded, "No, I'm only here for a committee meeting". Where upon, she took me by the hand and began to lead me toward the stairway. At the same time, Senator Muskie and his group came up the stairs. We moved back against the wall to let them pass. When we started to go down, again, we heard and saw Birch bounding up the stairs. He passed us a couple steps, stopped, turned around and came back to me. Birch said, "Well, hello. It's so good to see you again. It has been awhile." I replied, "Yes, and it is good to see you again." Birch said, "Have you met Senator Muskie?' I, of course, said "No". He immediately took me by the hand, raced me out the revolving door, caught up with Muskie on the corner waiting for the light to change, reached out turned him around and said, "Senator Muskie, I want you to meet one of our good friends in Education." Muskie reach out and shook my hand and said, "It's awfully nice to meet you". At that moment, the light turned green and he said, " I have a press conference across the street at the Capitol". I replied, " I understand

Senator. I wish you the best". Birch shook my hand again, repeated it was good to see me and said, "I hope we can count on your support." Always the campaigner. But, it wasn't the political that caused me to so remember the incident, rather, the fact that Birch cared enough to stop, go out of his way to include me, and did it with the style and grace he always exhibited. Some time later, I was told Birch didn't always remember names, but seldom forgot a face. We came in contact on numerous occasions after that and Birch always seemed to remember me. I was honored he did so.

In 1984, my wife Janet ran for Dekalb County, Indiana, Clerk of the Courts. Like most women, she was, at least, infatuated with Birch. He was a handsome guy. But, more than that she watched how Birch would light up a room the minute he entered and how when working a parade he seemed to touch everyone on both sides of the street and how the crowds lining the street responded so positively to him. Therefore, when she ran for Clerk, Janet did her best to model after Birch. It must have worked. The first time she ran (In a county where Democrats were out numbered 60/40, she won by 47 votes and by almost 1,400 four years later for re-election. It started her political career. When we moved to Florida she was elected Florida State Committee Woman from Pinellas County, a delegate to the Kerry Convention, President of the State Democratic Women's Club and in 2008 an Obama/Biden Electoral College Elector. By the way, Birch was right. We should elect the president and vice-president by simply counting the votes.

Birch was a political inspiration to us and a man we were proud to emulate and call a friend.

*Gerald & Janet Goen
10382 Carolina Willow Dr.
Fort Myers, Florida, 33914
goengerald@gmail.com*

NP

“ Birch Bayh was my family's hero when he first ran for the Senate in 1962. During and after working on his staff for several years, he became an even greater inspiration. He was good at everything and put his extraordinary intellect and skills to work for others, particularly those who most needed a champion. He defined the terms 'servant leader' and 'statesman' and will always be my hero.

My condolences and prayers go to Evan, Kitty and Christopher and all those grieving his loss.

Nancy Papas - April 04, 2019 at 12:15 AM

JS

“ My deepest condolences at the passing of the Senator. My two years on his staff from 1966 to 1968 were perhaps the most formative of my life. I particularly remember my assignment as driver for Marvella as she campaigned at many smaller Indiana venues that the Senator needed covered. Marvella, together with her secretary, Gail Alexander, and I roamed the Indiana hillsides, where she spoke at many events. (One I recollect was the Bluffton Bean and Sausage Supper!) I came to know Evan by picking him up from his (little league?) games and bringing him home in Bethesda, MD. I believe he was 10 at the time.

I was at GW Law at that time, as Editor of the International Law Magazine. The Senator occasionally requested my views on international issues of interest to him.

I was privileged to know the Senator and his family. May the family take comfort from all the good deeds he performed when he was with us.

*Sincerely,
Jeremy Sachs
2 Curran Circle
Hartford, CT 06002*

Jeremy Sachs - March 25, 2019 at 03:03 PM

CR

“ *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, 2019 at 11:50 AM

PB

“ 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, 2019 at 01:33 PM

KC

“ 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, 2019 at 11:56 AM

AW

“ 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, 2019 at 05:28 PM

JS

“ 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, 2019 at 10:47 PM



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



March 15, 2019 at 05:01 PM

JG

“ 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, 2019 at 04:06 PM



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



March 15, 2019 at 12:48 PM

MS

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



Matthew Stachler - March 15, 2019 at 07:53 AM

PF

“ 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, 2019 at 02:30 AM

JD

“ 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, 2019 at 10:37 PM

MM

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, 2019 at 10:19 AM

LB

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, 2019 at 07:29 PM