



Dr. Bryce Darius March

July 4, 1926 - September 18, 2016

Long-time Southeast Missouri State University professor and administrator Dr. Bryce Darius March died on Sunday, September 18. Born on the 4th of July in 1926 on a farm near Fruitland, he was 90 years old. He lived almost all of those years in Cape Girardeau County with his wife of 66 years, Dorothy Ross March. At the time of his death Bryce and Dorothy resided at the Chateau Girardeau.

Bryce March was a life-long educator, a passionate aviator, a naval officer, a world traveler, a leader in his church and community and, above all, a devoted husband and father. In addition to his wife he leaves behind three children, Merri (Mark) Abels of St. Louis, Melissa (Stephen) Gallant of Atlanta and Stephen (Jennifer) March of St. Louis; and a sister, Janthia (Pete) Chiabauda of Culver City, California. Bryce also leaves behind seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

A 1950 graduate of Southeast Missouri State, Bryce returned to his alma mater as a teacher in 1956. He also served as an assistant to President Mark Scully and played a key role in planning and fundraising for the University's future. He earned his PhD from SIU-Carbondale in 1961. In 1967 Bryce was named chair of the Industrial and Technical Education Department. He retired from SEMO in 1982 after 26 years at the University and 33 years as an educator.

Flying was Bryce's passion. As a high school student (Jackson High, Class of 1944) he sold the pelts of rabbits he had hunted to raise money for flying lessons, and while still in high school soloed his first Piper Cub. Bryce completed combat air crew training in the Navy and later served as a training officer in reserve transport and patrol squadrons in Hawaii, Spain, Panama, Puerto Rico, Morocco and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. He retired with the rank of Commander after a distinguished 42-year career in the Navy and Navy Reserve.

As a civilian aviator, Bryce held a commercial pilot certificate with instrument and multi-engine ratings. He was a Certificated Flight Instructor and a familiar face around Cape Girardeau Municipal Airport, where he taught many would-be area pilots, including two of his children. He was the faculty sponsor of SEMO's Flying Indians flying club and he took fatherly pride in reminiscing about club members who went on to careers in aviation.

Bryce was proud to have visited all 50 states and 20 foreign countries, travels he charted on wall maps in the lower level of the long-time family home on Kage Road. Many of these visits, and many treasured family memories, came on long summer road trips in the family station wagon, the back of which served as a mobile dormitory for the March children.

Bryce and Dorothy were long-time members of Centenary United Methodist Church where Bryce served as Men's Club president, Sunday School superintendent and on the Board of Trustees. He was a member of Rotary International for more than 50 years, recognized for his service with Rotarian of the Year and Distinguished Service awards.

Someone once said about the late Will Rogers that there were no strangers in his world, only friends he hadn't made yet. The same can be said of Bryce

March, who had a marvelous gift for finding something in common with everyone he met and striking up instant friendship. His many friends already miss him.

Following a private interment service at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, the family will welcome friends to a memorial service celebrating Bryce's life at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, September 22, at Centenary United Methodist Church.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to Kingdom House of St. Louis, The Salvation Army or a charity of their choice.

Cemetery Details

Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery

2900 Sheriden Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63125

Previous Events

Memorial Service

SEP **22**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Centenary United Methodist Church
300 N Ellis St
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701-5524
(573) 334-2869

Tribute Wall

MD

“ Dorothy - just happened to check the Missourian tonight & saw about Bryce. I'm so sorry. Please give my love to the kids - we have lots of good memories!

Mary Helen (Lichtenegger Peters) Duggar

Mary Helen Duggar - September 21, 2016 at 08:41 PM

ME

“ I can remember taking Sunday evening rides with Mom and Dad and always going by the March home on Kage Road. Dr. and Mrs. March were part of the early bridge club with my parents, and I know they greatly cherished the friendship. My sympathies are with all of you.

Mary (Farrar) Enger

Mary Enger - September 21, 2016 at 01:20 PM

DM

“ I was an student under Dr. March from 1965 through 1975, but I am thankful to say that I considered myself his friend from our meeting in 1965 until now. He was a fine man, a wonderful mentor, fun golf partner, good friend and a fine example of a Christian walk through life. I will miss him greatly, but cherish the time I spent with him. I am grateful to have known him.

Dale Michaelis

Dale Michaelis - September 20, 2016 at 06:10 PM

RD

I was a student under Dr. March while enrolled at SEMO. I finished in early 1961 and went into the US Navy flying program and finished that tour of duty in 1966 then started my career with TWA. I retired from TWA in 1998 just a couple of years before they ceased to exist. I have always cherished my friendship with Dr. March and Dotty. I deeply regret his passing. He was truly a wonderful gentleman. My brother Kenneth of Jackson informed me of his passing. I was so pleased that he showed up in Dexter at the time of my father's passing and also when my brother Darrell passed away. I will always cherish many fond memories of Dr. Bryce March and his lovely Dotty.

Robert E. Dixon - October 09, 2016 at 09:11 PM