

Byron Dee Myers

St. Joseph, MO Chapter of BHS

It is always difficult saying goodbye to someone we love and cherish. Family and friends must say goodbye to their beloved Byron Dee Myers of Saint Joseph, Missouri, who passed away at the age of 86, on July 12, 2021. Family and friends can light a candle as a loving gesture for their loved one. Leave a sympathy message to the family in the guestbook on this memorial page of Byron Dee Myers to show support.



Visitation will be held on Sunday, July 18th 2021 at 1:00 PM and from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Meierhoffer Funeral Home & Crematory (5005 Frederick Ave, St Joseph, MO 64506). A funeral service will be held on Monday, July 19th 2021 from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM at the Ashland United Methodist Church (2711 Ashland Ave, St Joseph, MO.B

Byron joined the heavenly choir July 12, 2021. He was born Oct. 27, 1934, at home on south 10th Street, in St. Joseph, where he lived his entire life. And what a life he lived! He graduated from Central High School 1953, graduated from St. Joseph Junior College and Northwest Missouri University. He married Phyllis Anne (Yost) in 1956.

Byron taught vocal music at Central High School and started the Broadway musical productions there. He received the Outstanding Educator Award from the St. Joseph School District. He was ordained by the Disciples of Christ Christian Church, serving as a Director of Music, Education and Youth, and Associate Pastor. He was also a soloist at the Temple of Adath Joseph Synagogue for 23 years. He was the owner of Power Tools Co, Inc., Midland Distributing Co, Myers Family Music and Belt Antique Mall- all in St. Joseph. He served as President of the Allied Arts Council, President of the St. Joseph Symphony Board, President of Town Hall Center (Missouri Theatre acquisition corporation that saved the theatre) and a member of Shriners International through Moila for over 50 years.

He was the founder and director of championship internationally competing choruses with **SPEBSQSA, Inc., aka Barbershop Harmony Society, The Pony Expressmen, The American BarberBoys and Voices of America**. He was also a founder and director of the St. Joseph Sweet Adelines internationally competing chorus. All of his



choruses were known for their innovative, musical excellence. Byron was a member of three District Championship Quartets and selected for the **Central States Barbershop Hall of Fame**. He was proud of his quartet, **The Four Kippers** serving on a 3-week USO Tour in Guam, Okinawa, Japan and the Philippines, during the Vietnam War. He was a musical mentor, educator and coach of numerous choruses and quartets, all over the United States, Canada and Australia. Byron was the International Membership Chairman and



Workshop Intensive Chairman for the international barbershop organization. Byron served as President of the **BHS Central States District** 2005 – 2006.

Mayor Bill Falkner presented Byron with the Mayor's Extraordinary Lifetime Achievement Award for the Arts in 2010. He was designated as "20 Who Count" in St. Joseph, VP of the Northwest MO, Missouri Arts Council. He was elected to the St. Joseph City Council and served as Deputy Mayor from 2010-2014. He was named as Distinguished Alumni of MO Western State University. He was a member of Ashland United Methodist Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Edward Byron and Marguerite (Talley) Myers; his brother, Michael A Myers and sister-in-law, Sue (Gibson) Myers, and nephew, Zac Nothhouse.

Survivors are his wife, Phyllis; daughter, Dee Ann Vestal (Mike); son, Byron II (Carol); grandchildren, Josh Heckman, Patrick Lile (Sara), Allison Johnston (Matt), Mia Myers and Joey Myers; great-grandchildren, Tyson, Emery, Truman, and Weston Lile, Elizabeth Heckman, Marley and Ryker Johnston; his sister, Lacyne Nothhouse (Bob). He has several nieces, nephews and cousins. His family was very important to him and he lovingly served as patriarch to us all.

Byron was a wise and talented man who worked hard to make things better for others- his family, his students, his customers, his church members, his choral groups, his city, strangers he met and audience members all over the world, but especially the young adults through 50 years with

[The New Generation Singers](#). He continued to help others realize their potential, maximize their talents, encourage, counsel, educate and demonstrate the power of kindness, the importance of knowing



better to do better. His life included priceless adventures that we shared all over the world. Our gift was having this man, who was larger than life, in our lives. To us all, he was "The Man, The Myth, The Legend." While we now miss him, we all have the opportunity to allow his principals, his talents and teachings to live on as his legacy.

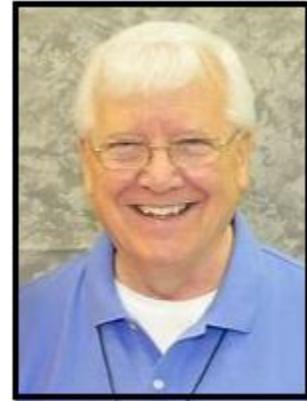
Help us celebrate his life, Farewell Services and Public Livestream 10 a.m. Monday, Ashland United Methodist Church. Interment Memorial Park Cemetery. The family will gather with friends 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday, Meierhoffer Funeral Home & Crematory, where friends may call after 1 p.m. Sunday.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations to The New Generation Singers, c/o Meierhoffer Funeral Home & Crematory, P.O. Box 8790, St. Joseph, Missouri 64508-8790. To view Public Livestream please visit www.aumcfamily.org/livestream. Online guest book and obituary at www.meierhoffer.com.



Byron Myers

Byron Myers seems to have been born singing; and he never slowed down from that beginning. With parents who had innate musical interests, he found family support for his music. A Neely school product, he found encouragement from his music teacher who Byron credits for early part of his development. At Central High School he was introduced to the choral director Marvin Gench, by a student who heard Byron singing in the locker room. Under the tutelage of Mr. Gench, Byron's talent grew and an interest in becoming a music teacher was born. William Jewel College, Missouri Western



University [then St. Joseph Junior College] and Northwest Missouri University all provided the needed skills to return to Central High School to pursue a career as a Choral Conductor. It was through the arts that he met and married Phyllis; they have been married more than 53 years.

The results of all that development was a diversity that includes:



Founder and conductor of the **New Generation Singers**, a Christian based national touring group, director of International award winning mens' and womens' choruses for more than 40 years. He has experienced being guest symphony conductor, quartet performer, dance/country band bass player, backup singer for rock group Foreigner, soloist in many music genres, group and singer adjudicator, producer and musical director of 10 Broadway musicals while teaching at Central High School, and a vocal teacher/coach.

A broader view of the arts, lead him to become a champion of the arts. As an early president of the Town Hall Center organization, he was part of the acquisition of the Missouri Theater. He also served three terms as President of the Allied Arts Council.



He has served, at the International level of **The Barbershop Harmony Society**, as their **Chair of Music Director Development** training by traveling nation-wide as well as Canada and Australia. He currently serves as the **International Membership Chair** of 30,000 members with responsibility for membership and program development.



His answer to the question “Why are the arts important to you?” is “Without a doubt, the arts have been my life. With the offerings in our community, I found a dream. That dream had support from many, but my grade school teacher - Helen Dolan - made sure I had the opportunity to see a Community Concerts program that featured Rosina Dorimini and Jerome Hines. Listening to those opera stars created a higher vision of what the arts, and my involvement in them, would really be. The Performing Arts Association brought many fine offerings to our stages, but it was Fred Waring, with whom I would develop a friendship, who let me see the value of performing. Without a strong civic fine arts program, I would have missed that vision.”

Byron is convinced that the Arts Fund is so very important at this time in our city's circumstance. His commitment to the Fund drive is a result of his personal experiences and the realization that the community needs to support arts of all kinds for their own benefit with a diverse opportunity to grow into a whole person.

Central States District, Barbershop Harmony Society

Society Member for 63 years, 97 Men of Note.

1980 Central States District Hall of Fame

2005 - 2006 Central States District President



International Barbershop Harmony Society President's Top Recruiter Award- 2001
Director of Championship BHS choruses in all three classifications. A-AA-AAA
98 Men of Note brought into the Society membership
Barbershop Harmony Society 5th place International medalist
Sweet Adelines International - Second place Internationalist medals [Twice]



Byron was born and raised in St. Joseph, attended Neely elementary and Central High School. Upon graduation he attended William Jewel College, Missouri Western State University and Northwest Missouri State University.

After graduation, he became a choral music teacher at Central High School, in St. Joseph.

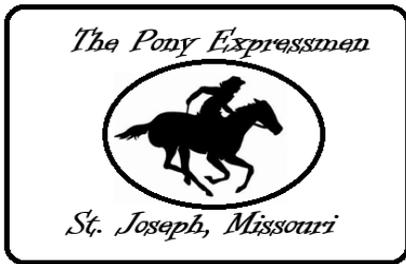
When presented with a business opportunity, he pursued it and became the owner of Power Tools Inc. Later he added Midland Distributing Co., Myers Family Music and Belt Antiques.

His involvement in community projects has provided the City with the historic Missouri Theater...our Civic Arena....Corporate expansion and growth...new ideas in planning the City and Community plans and projects and as the Chair of the City Personnel Comm. that lead the search for our current City Manager. [He is proud of that success.] He has been a community fundraiser for the Arts and accepted several responsibilities to benefit organizations in our community by raising funds to support their needs.

His work with Youth has extended beyond his teaching duties to include the founding and developing of a youth choir known as The New Generation Singers, who have represented St. Joseph nationwide in a positive manner for 44 years.

His musical efforts, at an International level with the Barbershop Harmony Society, allowed him to take the St. Joseph name world wide as a leader/choral conductor/trainer.

He is married to Phyllis. They have two children Dee and Bemo, five grandchildren and three great grandchildren.



Byron Myers, Sr St. Joseph, MO Chapter



CSD Chapter Eternal, Fall 2021

- 2005-2006 President of Central States District
- Director, The Pony Expressmen, and American BarberBoys, Voices of America choruses
- 63-year member of BHS, 97 Men of Notes
- BHS top recruiter, 2001
- CSD Hall of Fame, 1980
- *Four Kippers, Mid-Continental, Saint City Singers*, quartets



Sweet Adelines RiverSong (formerly The St. Joseph Show Chorus) has a long tradition of participating in competitions and winning top honors, beginning in 1959, when Byron Myers, a local music teacher, was invited to direct a group of ladies who wanted to begin a **Sweet Adelines barbershop chorus** in St. Joseph. By their fourth competition, the St. Joseph Chorus members had blue ribbons around their necks and were on their way to International Competition.

As the chorus grew in numbers and knowledge, their success continued, and included 13 Regional championships. The chorus has traveled to compete in such exciting cities as London, England, Portland, Oregon, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, and Honolulu, Hawaii, and has placed as high as 2nd place at the International Contest. Byron Myers left as director in 1998.

The Four Kippers, 1966



Ken Gabler, tenor
Byron Myers, lead
John Goldsberry, baritone
Gil Lefholz, bass

Mid-Continental, 1971



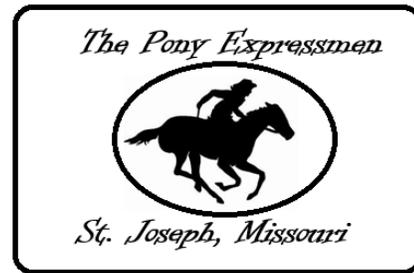
Ken Gabler, tenor
Byron Myers, lead
Paul Holliday, Baritone
Ron Meng, Bass
Tim Flemming, replacement lead
Don Ransom, replacement bass

Saint City Singers, 1991



Ken Gabler, tenor
Bemo Myers, Lead
Byron Myers, baritone
Stan Grossman, bass

The Pony Expressmen Barbershop Chorus



Contest Placement

International

1961	1962	1963	1965	1966	1972
9th	7th	9th	13th	10th	5th
1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
6th	7th	6th	8th	7th	12th



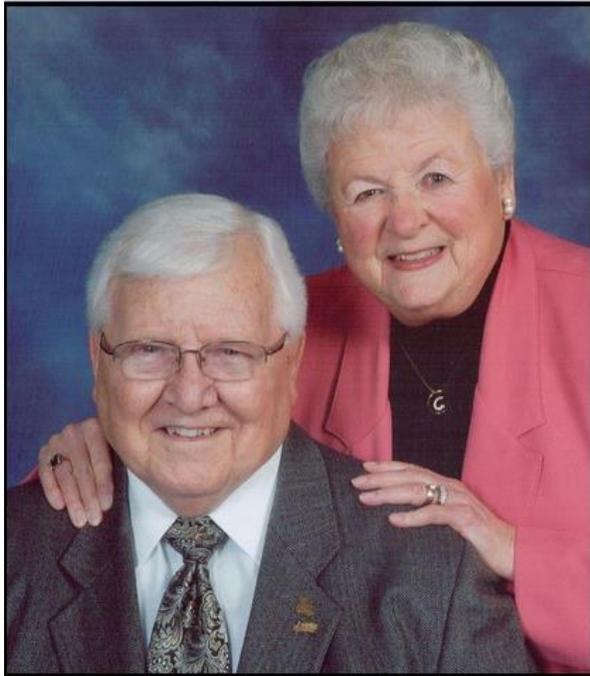
1972 International Convention, Atlanta, GA

“If You Were the Only Girl In the World” <https://youtu.be/owyrblxZTBY> and

“Do You Remember When” <https://youtu.be/3DBpJnz9OSI>.



Byron and Phyllis Celebrate 65 Years



Byron and Phyllis Myers celebrated their 65th Anniversary on June 29, 2021. They were married at First Baptist Church, in St. Joseph and have lived in St. Joseph their entire lives.

They have two children: Dee Ann Vestal (Mike) and Byron Myers II (Carol).

Their grandchildren are: Josh Heckman, Patrick Lile (Sara), Allison Johnston (Matt), Byron Myers III and Joseph Myers.

Great-grandchildren are: Elizabeth Heckman, Tyson Lile, Emery Lile, Truman Lile, Weston Lile, Marley Johnston and Ryker Johnston.

Cards may be sent to: 3002 Miller Rd. St. Joseph MO 64506.

Acknowledgements:

News Press, <https://newspressnow.com/obituararies/>; <https://newspressnow.com/celebrations>

Byron Myers, City Council-At-Large. <https://byronmers.org/leadership>

St. Joseph Missouri and Life in the Midwest, <https://www.facebook.com/stjosephmissouri/>

Riversong. <https://riversongchorus.com>

Pony Expressmen. https://www.barbershopwiki.com/wiki/Pony_Expressmen

Central States District: <https://www.singcsd.com>