



Bryant Paul Shaw

February 12, 1945 - July 6, 2023

Bryant Paul Shaw

Feb 12, 1945 - Jul 6, 2023

After a long and courageous battle with cancer, Bryant Paul Shaw passed away peacefully at his home in Leesburg, FL. A warm and kind individual, Bryant's life was marked by his complete devotion to his family.

Bryant is survived by his beloved wife of 50 years, Carol, sons David and Anthony (Kelly), grandsons Anthony and Evan, and siblings Anthony (Diane), Susanne (Robert), Isabelle, and Stephen (Maura), along with numerous nieces, grand nephews, and a grand niece.

Bryant was born in New York City and grew up in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. After graduating from St. John's Seminary College, Boston, with a B.A. in philosophy, Bryant joined the Peace Corps and was among the first group of Volunteers to work in Botswana following its independence in 1966. There he taught science and English to sixth and seventh graders while living in a thatched hut and commuting to school on dirt roads by bicycle and horse.

On his return to this country, he joined the U.S. Air Force where, over a remarkable 29-year career, he earned an M.A. from Duquesne University and a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, both in African History. He went on

to teach at the USAF Academy, the Air War College, and the National Defense University, and completed various other assignments for the Defense and State Departments. Over the course of his distinguished career, he was recognized with several awards, including the Defense Superior Service medal and two Defense Meritorious Medals, before retiring in 1999 as a Colonel.

Bryant then taught for ten years at Troy University in Alabama, ending up as Chair of the History Department.

Beyond his distinguished career, Bryant remains most memorable for his devotion to his family, especially to Carol, the love of his life. He always put the needs of his wife and their two sons before his own. His sense of humor and gift of a lightning wit were legendary among family and friends. He brought discipline, modesty, and kindness into every aspect of his life. Bryant was a gentle, loving man who brought out the best in all who knew him. He was an amazing husband and father and will be missed dearly.

There will be a private service for Bryant at a later date. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Peace Corps Botswana fund at: <https://www.peacecorps.gov/donate/country-funds/>

Arrangements entrusted to Beyers Funeral Home of Leesburg, Florida.