

Honorary Life President Richard H. Byne 1931 - 2015

Richard Harry Byne was born November 22, 1931, and died September 26, 2015. Dick served his country in the U.S. Army as an Interpreter and Interrogator while stationed in Berlin during the 1950s; he spoke fluent Russian. After leaving the Army, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force until 1959. Dick retired from the USAF Air Intelligence Command in 1986 after 26 years of civilian service.

Dick was an avid indexer, probably best known to Confederate scholars as the author of two volumes of Confederate philatelic subject matter that we refer to as the "Byne Index." He was also the one who first saw the value of the Internet and, at his own expense, put up a simple one-page webpage for the Alliance on his own website in late 1997 or early 1998. Dick was a member of the United States Philatelic Classics Society, Texas Postal History Society, Texas Philatelic Association, San Antonio Philatelic Association, and an honored Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London.

I first met Dick around 1968, nearly fifty years ago. We were good philatelic friends and yearly exchanged Christmas cards and regular emails. His most recent email to me was in May of this year when he asked me to relay his official good wishes as CSA Honorary Life President to members attending the CSA annual meeting this year in London. I relayed those last cherished greetings at the London Southern Supper. That was sadly to be our last communication. One of my strongest early CSA memories strongly includes him at the CSA convention in San Antonio in 1971. I still have the cowgirl hat with cancellations inside it that local postal officials gave me from that show.

Dick joined the CSA in 1967 as member #1368 and held Life Member #78. He was President of the Confederate Stamp Alliance from 1984-85 and personally gave me one of the best surprises of my life when he presented me with my General's medal at the 50th anniversary convention in Richmond in 1985. He was elevated to the rank of General himself the following year, in 1986.

He served the CSA as Trans-Mississippi Vice President 1976-1977 and 1982-83, General Vice President 1978-79, and Grievance Committee Chairman 1980-81. He was elevated to Honorary Life President in 2003, which position he held until his death. He won the President's Trophy for first time exhibitor in 1971 and the Haydn Myer Award for service to the Alliance in 1972. He was presented with the August Dietz Award in 1987 for *Confederate States of America Philatelic Subject Index and Bibliography, 1862 – 1984*, as well as the follow-up volume in 2001, *Confederate States of America Philatelic Subject Index and Bibliography 1862-1999 Volume II*. Ever the indexer, Dick won the August Dietz Award for the third time only five years ago for his work indexing the CP for the Royal Philatelic Society London.

Dick was a was a gentle soul who was always ready to help locate a published article for you and loved talking Confederate stamps and covers. He was an especially giving person of great character; it was a blessing to call him a friend. All who knew him will miss him but are comforted by many cherished memories. A true friend to the hobby has been lost.

Patricia A. Kaufmann