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OREGON ATTORNEY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

IN SIGHT for Oregon Lawyers

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF YOUR PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LIFE

IN MEMORIAM — WALTON E. BYRD, MD 1933 – 2009

Addictionologist Dr. Walt Byrd succumbed to a long illness on September 16, 2009, leaving an enduring legacy of helping professionals and their families heal from the disease of addiction.

Dr. Byrd was born in Amarillo, Texas, and was raised on a cattle ranch. After a year of military school, he started medical school. He was trained as a surgeon but switched to urology because post-World War II saw a shortage of physicians practicing that specialty.

Dr. Byrd moved to Oregon in 1960 and worked at Santiam Memorial Hospital in Stayton, practicing urology and general medicine. Ultimately, he found his true calling in the field of addiction medicine and attained a fellowship in that specialty in the 1980s.

With a passion for recovery, Dr. Byrd provided his patients with an extraordinary combination of care, compassion, and candor. He initially practiced in an era when physicians made house calls and sustained lifelong relationships with those they treated, and he continued this approach throughout his career. He was remarkably accessible to people in need, working closely with the Oregon Attorney Assistance Program. Dr. Byrd was successful in helping many lawyers into recovery. He had a special gift for reaching lawyers who had exhausted other avenues and approaches to treatment. He will be missed.

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Lawyers Helping Lawyers

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- Gambling Addiction
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