



Ronald Earl Bright

SEP 2, 1933 - JUL 7, 2015



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HAWAIIAN
MEMORIAL PARK MORTUARY
AT VALLEY OF THE TEMPLES

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Ronald E. Bright, 81, teacher and director extraordinaire, left this earth on Friday, August 7, 2015 to be with God in Heaven. Mr. B., as he was most often referred to, was born in Hilo, Hawaii, on September 2, 1933 and was the fourth of 10 children. Throughout his middle and high school years, he held student government offices and after graduating from Hilo High School in 1951, attended the University of Hawaii at Hilo, a 2-year college then. He left the Big Island in 1953 to continue his studies at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, where he graduated in 1956, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Education.

He obtained his Professional Certificate in 1957 after intern teaching at Roosevelt High School, where he met his wife, Moira. In 1973, he received his Master's in Education from the University of Hawaii at Mānoa. Mr. B.'s full-time teaching career started at Castle High School in Kaneohe, Hawaii, in 1957, only to be interrupted by a 2-year stint with the United States Army at Schofield Barracks from 1958-1960. He thoroughly enjoyed his military career and joined the National Guard shortly after.

He returned to education, teaching at Castle High School, up until his retirement in 1993. During his college years, he was a key player in a TV series airing weekly called "Campus Canteen," moonlighted as a piano player at the Beretania Follies, and later became a dinner pianist at the Kāneohe Yacht Club and O'ahu Country Club. It was at Castle High that he directed over 85 musicals and plays; this, along with other productions elsewhere such as New Hope Christian Fellowship, Kamehameha Schools and Palikū Theatre, numbered over 100 directorial pursuits.

There were numerous accolades bestowed on him throughout his lifetime, more notably, State Teacher of the Year, University of Hawai'i Lifetime Achievement Award, the National Milken Teacher of the Year Award, Guardsman of the Year, Father of the Year, Federal Citizen of the Year and Living Treasure of Hawai'i. His love for God never veered and he was content to live the good life that God planned for him.



Obituary

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It was in June of 1960, that he married the love of his life, Moira, a made-in-heaven union that produced three beautiful children, Clarke (Lynell), the Royal Hawaiian Bandmaster, Jodi (Lee) Stein, a teacher at Ft. Shafter Elementary, Michael (Jade), teacher at Kamehameha Schools, and seven grandchildren he was so proud of: Chris, Timothy, Caitlin, Drew and Colton Bright, and Lauren and Mia Stein. He is also survived by sisters Leilani Aguair, Judy Pereira, and brother, Wally Bright. His capacity to love was enormous and he touched thousands upon thousands of souls with his contagious smile, hearty laugh, big hugs and twinkling eyes that communicated, "you are special." He will never be forgotten but will live in our hearts forever. We are heart broken but comforted in the knowledge he is dancing, singing and directing a multitude of angels in a massive standing room only musical production in Heaven. A hui hou, dearest RB, until we meet again.

Arrangements: by Hawaiian Memorial Park - First Presbyterian Church, Ko'olau Ballroom, Friday, August 7, 2015, visitation from 8:30 – 10:00 am, services 10:00 – 11:15am. Friends and family are urged to car pool if attending services.



Events


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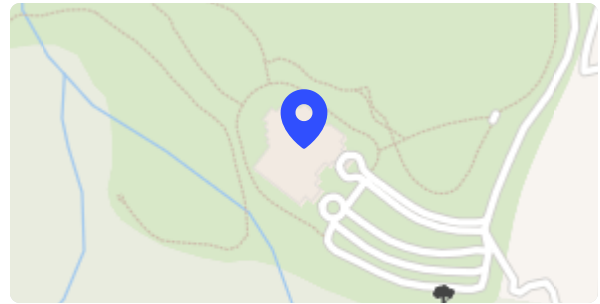
Visitation

 **Friday**, August 7, 2015

 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM HST


 **First Presbyterian Church, 45-550 Kionaole Road Kaneohe, HI 96744**

45-550 Kionaole Road, Kaneohe HI 96744



Service

 **Friday**, August 7, 2015

 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM HST

 **First Presbyterian Church, 45-550 Kionaole Road Kaneohe, HI 96744**

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Tribute Wall

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Kitsune Fox posted:

I haven't said much in the way of tribute to honor Mr. Ronald E. Bright publicly. This is not for lack of a full heart of love for him but conversely because my heart was indeed too full. Even in prayer for his family, whom in so many ways I consider my family as well, I have had to rely on the Holy Spirit to intercede and speak to the Lord on my behalf and had only the ability to thank God that He could read the grief written on this full heart of mine. I have said that Mr. Bright was a father to us all. He was a father of art and ideas and love. He is the reason many have realized passion, have followed their dreams, and have found love in theatre and in the people he brought together. His life has touched thousands of others in a very direct way and therefore a multitude of other lives who never knew him. We, his students of art and love, understood our responsibility to go out into the world and share what he taught us in our art and in our love for others. And thus his legacy lives on. He has taught me too much to ever put down in words but what I have taken away from knowing him most vividly was the importance of always striving for excellence and then perfecting that excellence. It still astounds me to know that he was in the audience for every single show he directed, and then go home and run through the entire show again in his mind, taking notes concerning even the smallest of details. The next day before a show he would find us individually and give us these notes that we may deliver an even better show that night. It kept me humble and reminded me that no matter how perfect a performance was...it could still be even more perfect. As a perfectionist myself, I admired that in him. And though, I'll admit, it was frustrating to feel I could never be good enough I realized that is the point.... in life and in live theatre. It will never be perfect. I will never be perfect. I can strive everyday but that is the beauty of life and live performances. Its nature is to carry with it flaws that remind us we are human. Flaws teach us to "Believe in Ourselves" because without them we would cease to savor each moment, be present in each moment, and love each moment. In the end it was never about reaching perfection but rather knowing we can always better ourselves and that we are meant to enjoy the journey to a better self. I have never met a more joyous person in my life. His very presence in a room lit it up with the joy of his God. I truly believe if anyone had life figured out, it was Mr. Bright. And everything beyond what he knew was not something to fret about because I know he knew what a grand thing life is and how small we all are in it. He was brilliant in theatre but the real art he put first and foremost was the art of being an excellent husband and father. This was evident just by looking at the way his family looked at him. They could not hide their love and pure adoration for him in each gentle smile they sent his way. Every look they gave him was almost so laden with love, affection, gratitude and admiration, I felt sometimes those glances might sink to the floor before it reach him. But he received each one loud and clear. His mastery of the stage and being a living example of pure love for people will always tremble, sweetly, in my heart as the "Wind in the Willows" are made to sing by the beautiful breezes. (Please continue reading below)

August 7 at 10:08 PM



Tribute Wall

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Kitsune Fox posted:

(Please start reading full tribute from the beginning above)*continued*I find comfort in knowing he knew "There's a Place For Us" after this life. A place prepared by our God and a place Mr. Bright waits with excitement for us all to see. He's jumping and dancing and singing with Jesus every second of the day. I know as each of us enter the gates of that "special place for us somewhere" he will be the first to run up and give us the grand tour. His exuberance will have only grown exponentially. Through the many hard days at rehearsals, long hours, the frustration, the weariness, Mr. Bright never wavered once. His mind was set on higher things like teaching us all to have, above all things, "A Heart Full of Love", whatever the circumstance in life is greeting you. Today we have hearts full of grief but also "Hearts full of song" for that was what he gave us that can never be taken away. We do not know "what God in heaven has in store" nor if we even have "One Day More", but what Mr. Bright has taught me that the words we sang are more true to life than I knew before. Mr. Bright, you have taught us that, indeed, "to love another person is to see the face of God". I love you, Mr. Bright. Thank you for showing me the face of God.

August 7 at 10:06 PM



Anonymous sent a sympathy card to the Bright family.



August 7 at 2:25 AM



S. Rick Crump posted:

in the last 10 years, I had the opportunity to be in two of Mr. Bright's plays at Paliku. I treasure those experiences. He was a caring and compassionate man, who brought out the best in everyone he knew. Even after not seeing him for some time, when we did happen to meet, he asked how I was doing and really seemed interested in what I'd been up to. He was one of the few men I respected. He was a special man. He, and his talent, will be missed. Aloha, Ron.

August 6 at 5:26 PM



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Lorna Ota And Family posted:

Sending loving prayers for Moire and her 'ohana and friends in the loss of a most wonderful husband and father. I feel so blessed to have seen this family at a distance, yet experience the joy and love they shared within and without their 'ohana. My deepest sympathies in the passing of a marvelous and joyous person...a man of God...so loved by multitudes. May Ronald Earl Bright rest in peace and may God's eternal light shine upon him. "Ahui Hou, until we meet again, Ron!" Sincerest Aloha Nui Loa, Ms. Lorna (Michael) Ota and family (Kathy (Ota), Robin, Jayme, and Ryan Ogino, and Joel-Marie (Ota) and Christian Malie Hee. (St. John Vianney and Kamehameha Schools)

July 20 at 2:30 PM



Wally Tavares July 21 at 7:47 AM

Mrs B , Clark , Jody , Michael and entire Ohana Love... Aloha ...Prayers...Great Thoughts and Memories of a Man who has done Great Things that has had a Great Positive Effect on a TON of People Around the World....Changed my life the moment I stepped into Room # 9 over 40 years ago...My World now, a little less Bright...Mahalo My Teacher , My Friend , My Mentor. Me Kealoha Pumehana Wally Tavares



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Ronald by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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