



Alexander T. Mayo, Jr.

June 29, 2022

Alexander T. Mayo, Jr., affectionately known as “A.T.” by friends and family, passed away on June 29, 2022 at the age of 79. His life was full of love and music, and he lived it to the fullest despite several health challenges in his later years. He showed great courage and strength throughout his life to the very end. He was predeceased by his parents, Alexander T. Mayo, M.D. and Margaret Eaton Mayo, and his sister Sandra Leigh Yarbrough.

A.T. met Nancy Catlett, the absolute love of his life, at age 15 in his hometown of Portsmouth, Virginia. He immediately told his mother he was going to marry her. As teenagers, they spent a great deal of time on or near the Elizabeth River, dating by car and by boat. They both graduated from Wilson High School, with A.T. going on to Princeton and Nancy to JMU. After growing their relationship even more through college while each earned their respective degrees, they were married on June 26, 1965 and spent the next 57 years loving and supporting each other and the family they created together.

The son of a local doctor, A.T. decided to join the legal profession and graduated from T.C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond in 1970. Widely respected for his honor and integrity, he enjoyed a long and rewarding career as an attorney, becoming a partner in several highly-regarded law firms over the years and serving as President of the Virginia State Bar from 1983-1984. A.T. worked extensively on Legal Ethics issues,

taught the Faculty Course on Professionalism, and was commended by the Bar for exemplifying its highest ideals of professional conduct. He is listed in the Banking Law, Civil Trial Practice, Medical Malpractice, Personal Injury, Product Liability Law and Real Estate Law sections of the Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers. In 2020, he was recognized by the Bar for more than 50 years of service, and he continued to practice law until the day of his passing.

A.T. served in many other capacities and received additional recognitions during his life, but his real passion was music. A talented pianist and singer, he performed regularly in front of audiences as a child and throughout his high school years. In college, he was a member and president of the internationally-known a cappella singing group The Princeton Tigertones, traveling, performing live, and appearing on multiple recordings, often as a soloist. A lifelong member and Elder of First Presbyterian Church in downtown Portsmouth, A.T. served as its Choir Director from 1975-1985, devoting countless hours to building lasting friendships while producing beautiful music which, to him, was a labor of love. His other interests included reading books, playing and watching golf, going fishing, playing cards, looking at birds and flowers, and, most of all, spending time with Nancy, his children and grandchildren. As A.T. sang many times when closing Tigertones performances, often with Nancy supporting him in the audience, in the words of Irving Berlin and spirit of Ella Fitzgerald, Nat King Cole and many other great singers, "The song is ended, but the melody lingers on."

A.T. is survived by his loving wife and partner of fifty-seven years, Nancy C. Mayo; son, Taylor Mayo (Michele); daughter, Ellen Brady (Jon); and grandchildren Grace, Elizabeth, and Graeme.

A memorial service will take place at 11 a.m. on Saturday, July 2 at First Presbyterian Church in Portsmouth. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the church in his memory or charity of your choice.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUL 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
515 Court Street
Portsmouth, VA

Tribute Wall

WJ

“ While going through old papers this morning I discovered my old baby book and learned that Alex T. Mayo, Sr. delivered me 80 years ago. Therefore I want to express my sadness at the passing of his son.

Wayne Jacobs - January 06, 2025 at 12:08 PM

AF

“ My husband and A. T. were law school classmates and good friends. I am so sorry to just find out about his passing. My deepest condolences to Nancy and his children.
Alexina Fagan

Alexina Fagan - January 06, 2023 at 07:25 PM

RK

“ Dolores and I have many fond memories and are so sorry to see that A. T. has passed away. Our regards to his family.

Roy Kelley - August 02, 2022 at 02:42 PM

AM

“ I enjoyed working with A.T. at Tavss Fletcher. He was always jovial and kind. I wish his family and friends sweet memories and peace.
Anita Monroe

Anita Monroe - July 10, 2022 at 10:25 PM

MA

“ It is with sadness that I read of Alex Mayo's death. I was in class with him and Nancy in Woodrow Wilson H.S. and recall his immense vitality, humor and affection (towards Nancy as he pulled her hair!) They were the couple we all wanted to be and who set a shining example of the possibilities and cheer that all high schools need. My condolences to his family especially Sandra Leigh whom I later knew in college. May Spirit bring you comfort and peace in the days ahead. Namaste, Mary W. Johnston

mary - July 04, 2022 at 10:22 AM

BS

Remembering A.T. for his lighthearted and genuine love and care. His loyal and steadfast friendship, ease and easy connection was a real and ever present constant in my life. A.T. was joyful, a source of reassurance and assistance when he was needed. I was in the choir when he directed. I loved it! He made it so much fun, and it was beautiful to see how much he studied and knew the music with such heart, that was always apparent as he brought each note to life...with that full, rich and beautiful voice that always seemed to be filled with inspiration.

He sang at each of my Grandparents Memorial Services. My family and I felt honored and deeply touched that he did.

I remember once I called him for legal consult. He was there.

As years and circumstances passed with time, and we were not in touch, our friendship didn't skip a beat. In moments when we would see each other, we might not always speak, but there was always the exchange in a glance.

I am ever blessed to have him in my life.

Much love and blessings to Nancy and The Mayo Family.

Bonnie Simpson

Bonnie Simpson - July 05, 2022 at 11:04 PM

BK

“ I remember AT as a Junior Golfer galloping around Elizabeth Manor Golf Course I the late fifties.

I remember AT from the early seventies when he returned to Portsmouth after Law School and was active in the Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce.

I remember AT when he was President of the Virginia Bar Association.

I remember AT in the early nineties when he worked tirelessly with our company for five years to reshape us for changing times.

I remember AT as our company lawyer dispensing wise legal counsel through the late nineties and into this century as a close friend and advisor.

His council was always wise and valuable. He was a good friend and confidant. He was courageous in every way that I know courage and a principled business and personal partner.

I will miss him on April 18th when I always wished him happy birthday.

My sympathy to his family and many friends. I am grieving his loss with you,

Bernie Kirsch - July 01, 2022 at 07:37 PM

JL

“ Nancy, So many wonderful memories with AT over the many years. We enjoyed playing golf together and loved to tell stories on each other. God Bless you and your family. J. P. Leigh

J P Leigh - July 01, 2022 at 02:48 PM

KM

“ *Kent R. Miller lit a candle in memory of Alexander T. Mayo, Jr.*



Kent R. Miller - July 01, 2022 at 06:27 AM

KM

It was an honor to have known A.T. and work with him. I remember a conversation we had regarding justice and he quoted a passage from Paradise Lost by Milton about justice without mercy is not justice. It was a pleasure to have known him. I am going to reread Paradise Lost in his memory. Kent

Kent R. Miller - July 01, 2022 at 06:32 AM

RL

My deepest sorrow at the loss of a childhood friend, classmate, and fellow golfer who married the sweet kady just down the street from my own childhood home. Prayers and blessings to Nancy and the entire Mayo family. Your loss is heaven's gain. AT is now sheltered in God's arms.

Richard Bonnie Lakes - July 02, 2022 at 01:28 AM

CJ

My thoughts are with you, Nancy, & your family - I pray that the Good Lord will comfort & sustain you all in the difficult times of loss ahead.

Chip Vogan

Charles E. Vogan, Jr. - July 02, 2022 at 01:07 PM