

*Death is nothing at all.  
I have only slipped away into the next room.  
I am I, and you are you.  
Whatever we were to each other,  
that we still are.  
Call me by my old familiar name,  
speak to me in the easy way  
which you always used.  
Put no difference in your tone,  
wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.  
Laugh as we always laughed at  
the little jokes we enjoyed together.  
Pray, smile, think of me, pray for me.  
Let my name be ever the household  
word that it always was,  
let it be spoken without effect,  
without the trace of a shadow on it.  
Life means all that it ever meant.  
It is the same as it ever was;  
there is unbroken continuity.  
Why should I be out of mind  
because I am out of sight?  
I am waiting for you, for an interval,  
somewhere very near,  
just round the corner.  
All is well.  
~Henry Scott Holland*





Joseph Allen Bryant, son of James and Dorothy (Gray) Bryant, was born in Houston, Texas on January 26, 1939. He grew up in Beaumont, Texas until his family moved to San Pedro, California where he graduated from high school. Joe served as a Military Police in the United States Army from 1962-1964. Following

his time in the Army, Joe worked for 33 years as a chemist for the Union Oil Company of California (UNOCAL) in Harbor City, California. Joe met Mary DeRuyter and the couple was united in marriage on September 21, 1974. After retiring from UNOCAL, Joe and Mary moved to Rock Valley, Iowa in 1998.

Joe had many interests in his lifetime, the one he loved most may have been his dogs. He had a enjoyment for electronic toys and liked to tinker with computers and any new gadgets that came around. Joe also enjoyed music, playing chess and bridge, fixing Rubik's Cubes, and his sailboat. Joe was fascinated with astronomy and even built his own telescope to explore the night sky. Joe's dry sense of humor and love for puns will be missed by his family and friends. Joe passed away Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at Whispering Heights in Rock Valley at the age of 82 years.

Joe is survived by his wife of 47 years, Mary; 3 nieces; sisters-in-law, Elaine DeRuyter of Spirit Lake, Iowa and Marcy (Greg) Chapman-Ahrens of Jackson, Minnesota; brothers-in-law, Ed (Rose) DeRuyter of Rock Valley and Rich (Rebecca) DeRuyter of Verona, Missouri; and many of Mary's nieces and nephews.

Preceding Joe in death were his parents, James and Dorothy; grandmother, Emma Gray; twin sister, Kathleen Payne; brother, Kenneth Bryant; parents-in-law, Dick and Cora DeRuyter; sister-in-law, Hilda Jensen; and brother-in-law, John DeRuyter.

*In Loving Memory of*  
**Joseph Allen Bryant**  
*January 26, 1939 ~ November 10, 2021*

**FUNERAL SERVICE**

2:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 16, 2021  
Porter Funeral Home  
Rock Valley, Iowa

**OFFICIATING**

Rev. Joseph Terrell  
Grace Community Church

**ORGANIST**

Bonnie Terrell

**REFLECTIONS**

Doug Wong

**CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS**

*"Amazing Grace"*  
*"In the Garden"*  
*"Blessed Assurance"*

**HONORY PALLBEARERS**

Stan Oostru ~ Douglas Wong

**PALLBEARERS**

Steve De Ruyter ~ David De Ruyter  
Mark De Ruyter ~ Brian De Ruyter  
Scott De Ruyter ~ Joshua Chapman ~ Tyler Chapman

**INTERMENT**

Valley View Cemetery  
Rock Valley, Iowa

*Joe's family would like to invite you for a time  
of food and fellowship at the funeral  
home following the committal service.*