



Howard Rittner

MAY 19, 1933



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Howard Rittner

MAY 19, 1933

Howard George "Tex" Rittner died on August 29, 2022 in Delray Beach, FL. He was 89. He is survived by his daughter, Lori Rittner, of Andover, MA, his stepchildren, Larry Howard of Boynton Beach, FL, Leslie Howard of Las Vegas, NV, and his grandchildren, Len Tetta of Boston and Laura Howard of Maine. He was married to Sandra (Sugarman) and Roslyn (Howard), and was the partner of Marilyn Kozin.

Howard was born in the Bronx in 1933 and raised on City Island, NY, a childhood he described as idyllic. He learned to play the clarinet as a youth and so began a lifelong passion for music, as well as a career spanning decades. Howard attended the Juilliard School of Music, expanding his skills to include flute and saxophone, until he required oral surgery.

Because he had to pause his musical education, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, where he became the leader of his own orchestra. It was in the army that he acquired the nickname, "Tex" (after Tex Ritter, the singer and Western movie actor). Following his service, Tex graduated from the Manhattan School of Music.

Tex's musical endeavors included playing on Broadway and in many productions throughout the Northeast. One of his most memorable jobs was playing in the pit band for a Broadway review starring Mike Nichols and Elaine May which ran for nine months in 1960-'61. Seeking more stability, Tex took a job with the NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation, eventually becoming a Supervisor of Patient Accounts.

He retired from the HHC as a beloved colleague in 1989, and moved from Queens, NY to Delray Beach. He continued working as a musician during his years at the HHC in New York, as well as in retirement in Florida. Tex was also an accomplished tennis enthusiast, earning trophies and playing daily until well into his 80s.



Obituary

Howard Rittner

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He enjoyed baseball, poker, jai alai and word games among many interests. Tex loved and maintained a vast network of friends ranging from his youth on City Island, through his army and college years, from his day job and the music business in New York, to his tennis buddies and music colleagues in Florida.

Howard will be greatly missed for his humor, talent, generosity and enormous heart. He will be remembered by all who knew him as uttering his favorite saying: "That's showbiz!" Service will be held on November 6, 2022 at 11:15 a.m. at Beth Isreal Memorial Chapel, 5808 W. Atlantic Blvd., Delray Beach, FL 33484.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to : Bread of Life Food Pantry, 214 Commercial Street, Malden, MA 02148, 781-397-0404, www.breadoflifemalden.org.




Events


Howard Rittner

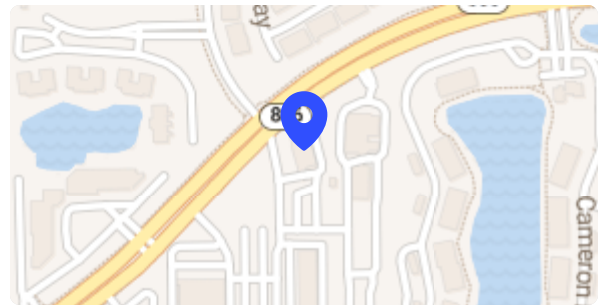
MAY 19, 1933 - APR 28, 2026

Chapel Service

 **Sunday**, November 6, 2022

 11:15 AM ET

 **Beth Israel Memorial Chapel**
5808 W. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach FL 33484





Tribute Wall

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Leslie Howard posted:

I'm continuing missing Howie and still crying as his loss is so deep. He was so fabulous in every area that you could think. He had the strongest hugs, loved by everyone and generous. He had the greatest attitude in life. Smart, sweet, funny and a joy to be around. Though living in another state and wish we could have seen each other more during the years. I have great memories and plenty of photos through the years. In 1967 during my mom and Howie's honeymoon he paid \$10.00 for a gorgeous cover for a bathing suit, that was so expensive and I still have it and love it as much. One of many fond memories. He certainly made his mark on this earth. Pictures around my home for me to enjoy memories.

August 15 at 1:32 AM



Marilyn E Kozin posted:

Though our paths crossed many times, we finally met at a rehearsal in my community where Tex played the clarinet and I sang. Tex and I shared many things in common, one of which was the love of music. An outstanding musician and loved by many friends, Tex was a kind, generous and funny guy. The 14 years we shared were beautiful, filled with love and laughter. Tex never said goodbye. Instead it was "carry on my woman!" Yes, I'm doing exactly that. I miss him terribly but will hold him in my heart forever. Love your woman, Marilyn Kozin

January 28 at 5:56 AM



Marilyn E Kozin posted:

I met Tex (Howard Rittner) at a community rehearsal in Boynton Beach, Fl. where he played the clarinet and I sang. That was 14 years ago and we were together ever since. Those years with Tex were filled with joy and laughter. A kind, loving and generous man, always had a beautiful smile and made me very happy. We both shared many things in common, one of which was the love of music. I miss him terribly, but will always hear his voice telling me "carry on my woman!" Yes, that's just what I intend to do. Love you forever, your woman Marilyn Kozin

January 27 at 5:50 PM



Tribute Wall

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Brian Rittner posted:

I wanted to express a few words about my uncle Howie. (My father-Calvin's brother). I always felt close to him and will miss him greatly. I'll never forget the way he told jokes and made me and all of us hysterical. He could really command the room. I remember playing tennis with him years ago, and how good a tennis player he was. I also always remember meeting him for many years at the Indian casino in Ct. and having lunch, or going to Jai Alai in Florida when we used to visit. He would chart out all the Jai Alai results for years past and had a system for betting. Lately, even though I hadn't seen him much (tough for me physically to get to FL), I felt closer to him because we started exchanging emails more frequently. We talked about similar health problems - (i.e... we both had prostate surgery-), always giving me suggestions of different meds to try for different ailments. We would talk about sports all the time. Also, I bought a Korg electric piano, after seeing his in his condo. Years ago, he made a recording of Beatles songs on his wind synthesizer instrument and sent me a CD. I learned a few of the songs on my electric piano and would play along with his CD. I still do this to this day. He was an awesome musician. He would sometimes play for us when we visited him in Del Ray Beach. Anyway, it's just so weird to think he's not around anymore. When I heard he was just recently in the hospital, I sent him an email wishing for his speedy recovery. I didn't realize how serious his health situation was. He will be greatly missed. Love, Brian Rittner

October 23 at 9:01 AM



Sandra Rittner Lefebvre October 30 at 9:39 AM

The day that Howie died the music stopped. He was the most dedicated and talented musician I have ever known. In the years we were married we had had beautiful times. Most of all he gave me the joy of my life my beautiful daughter Lori Rittner. I am sure he is playing with G-D'S angels. He will always live in my heart. Sandy "Rittner" Lefebvre



Memories only last if you share them

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



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