*Mark has asked me to say a few words about our late member, Boyd Duncan.*

He was my dear and best friend, my sidekick on ventures. Often when having a one-day trip, I would invite Boyd to come along . He never declined, and we enjoyed each other’s company.

He was from Northeast Alabama, growing up on a hardscrabble farm. His parents saw to it that he learned solid basic values. He began college at Jacksonville State, then with a friend, joined the Navy. His two years in the Navy was in New Orleans. Afterward, he started work in New Orleans with a company that imported bananas, then shipped them around the country. Bet many did not know that Boyd was a banana expert. After the company sent him to St. Louis, he shortly came to Atlanta, working his way through Georgia State University.

Then it was the real estate business for Boyd, a true calling. Starting on the southside of Atlanta, he soon recognized the growth of Gwinnett, and opened his own firm here in the late 60s. He was super successful in this field, and made considerable money, so that he could retire comfortably. He was most active in many major Gwinnett activities and a key force in the Gwinnett Real Estate community, serving in 1970 as the organizing president of the Gwinnett Board of Realtors. He enjoyed putting together adjacent parcels owned by different people, and finding a buyer. That’s how he sold land to the government for the Norcross post office, for instance.

Boyd was a charter member of Gwinnett Rotary. He and I worked together on the first Oyster Roast 37 years ago, held outdoors then, with Boyd and I doing the cooking each year, in all sorts of weather, cold, heat, sun, rain, snow, sleet. We developed a unique friendship, for we often thought differently on issues, but respected each other’s views.

Boyd had perfect attendance at Rotary, and was protective of Rotary, wanting to ensure that newcomers knew the rules. He sat in on many new member orientations. He liked to point out that people have to be asked to join Rotary; that you can’t just walk in and join. He also would point out that once in, Rotary can not get rid of a member; but the member could put themselves out for lack of attendance or not paying their dues.

Boyd Duncan was friendly, happy and content! What a good friend: Boyd, may you rest in peace.

Now may we stand silently for a moment to honor his memory.