

IN MEMORIAM

Remembering Don Ryan,
Arts Center trustee and
longtime friend of the arts

Donald Rogers Ryan, chairman and CEO of CareCore National and husband to Helen Dorflinger Ryan, died suddenly at Hilton Head Hospital Sept. 17.

Don was an ardent lover and supporter of the arts. As a board trustee, he contributed greatly his time, his passion and commitment to the Arts Center of Coastal Carolina. Don's personal approach to the arts was "participate, enjoy and support."



Helen and Don Ryan • Photography by Anne

Always active participants, Don and Helen Ryan attended all of the Arts Center's fundraisers, performances, many of the community festivals and were avid art collectors. Don served on the Arts Center Board of Trustees 2009-2011.

Don was born in Putnam, Conn., on Jan. 8, 1947. A Boy Scout from an early age, he was active wherever he resided. He received a bachelor's degree in political science from Providence College and a master's degree in hospital administration from St. Louis University.

Don always understood the true concept of the Big Picture. His entrepreneurial spirit blossomed during his 21 years in Maryland as the CEO and owner of Practice Management Associates, Inc.

Don Ryan was a primary player in the formation of CareCore National, LLC in 1994. CareCore National moved from Wappingers Falls, N.Y., to Bluffton in 2007, where Don was named the Beaufort County Ambassador for

Economic Development by South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford.

CareCore National was also awarded the Regional Economic Impact Award by the Beaufort Chamber of Commerce in the same year, as CareCore created more than 300 jobs in Beaufort County. In 2010, CareCore National was honored with the Bluffton-Hardeeville Small Business of the Year award after the opening of a second building adding more than 200 jobs in the Beaufort County region. For most folks, Don Ryan WAS CareCore National.

Don played a large role in helping to provide a vibrant business future for Beaufort County and was very interested in seeing not only the Lowcountry grow but in bringing greater successes to the state of South Carolina.

In addition to his mother, Irene Ryan, Don is survived by his wife, Helen, daughter Keri Ryan, of Manhattan, and son Kevin, of Savannah, as well as two brothers.

May he rest in peace.