

Nathaniel Branden, RIP

Nobody asked but ...

A few days ago, Nathaniel Branden died at the halfway point of his 85th year. His psychology of self-esteem has been a major influence for me. I didn't even know about him until I read a biography on Ayn Rand, by Anne Conover Heller, in which the probable affair between Rand and Branden was discussed. I am just glad to say that I pursued Branden's work further, and I discovered that to me Branden's work was more useful to me than that of Rand. The true core of voluntaryism is individualism, a sense of the role and the worth of the individual. And self-ownership is the core of individualism. And self-esteem is an absolute prerequisite to self-ownership. Although Dr. Branden has passed, his work fortunately remains — I recommend it highly.

kilgore