



2024 Issue 1

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Joy at the Macy*s Thanksgiving Day Parade



INSIDE PN

Cover - The Parade.....	1
Marilyn's Page	2
What's Now! - NBC News Archive Request	3
What's Now! - NABJ History	4-5
What's Now! - Al Roker Returns to Macy*s Parade	6
What's Now! - 30 Rock Turns 90 - and Tree Lighting.....	7
What's Now! - Al Rice Celebrates 88.....	8
What's Now! - Klimo Hosts Photo Exhibition	9
Bright Lights - Ann Taylor's Central Park Seasons	10
Bright Lights - Vera Pressman's "Day of the Dead"	11
What's Now! - Martin Fletcher at Sacred Heart University ..	12
Grey Matters - Peacock Streaming and GE Pension News....	13
Silent Microphones - Larry Cirillo.....	14-15

INSIDE PN

Silent Microphones - Don Washington	16
Silent Microphones - Felicia Taylor and Miki Alicastro.....	17
Silent Microphones - Ellen McKeefe	18-19
Silent Microphones - Don Browne.....	20
Silent Microphones - Russ Moore	21
Silent Microphones - Edward Brown	22
Silent Microphones - Robert M. Hickey	23
Silent Microphones - Bob Hennessy	24
We Get Pictures - Steve Cimino's Scenic Bike Rides.....	25
We Get Pictures - Tiffany Peacock Doors.....	26
Remembering John F. Kennedy	27
The Kicker - Peacock North Membership Coupon	28
Peacock North Contact Info	28

Marilyn's Page

Writing this page has been extraordinarily hard. This is not an Op-ed page and yet it is impossible for me to ignore the events surrounding us. Thanksgiving and the holidays are always a time for reflection and hope for the next year. There is usually talk of love, peace, and harmony in the world. Instead, the talk is about hostage swaps, bombings, hateful demonstrations, and student shootings in our country.

For the past few years, with antisemitism soaring and the world stage growing more and more dangerous, I have felt that I was living in my parents' time in 1938 Germany and Austria, respectively. My knowledge of WW II and the Holocaust has been personal but from a rear-view mirror perspective. October 7th changed that. My point of view is now voiced in first-person awareness and fear. There are no words for the butchery which occurred that day. It is unfathomable. It deserves mentioning in this magazine because it cannot be ignored.

On that note, I am dedicating this page to the brave men and women, on- and off-camera, who are covering this story in Israel, Gaza and other parts of the Middle East as well as in Ukraine. Their jobs are often dangerous, none more so than now. Each network has people on the ground reporting day and night from these war zones. My hope is that this world gets put back together. It will take all of us doing our bit. Spread the light as best you can, in your families, circle of friends and neighbors. Vote. Be involved. And, as my friend Fran Cimino's signature says:

"In a world where you can choose to be anything, Be Kind."

I, for one, am counting on all of you. Happy, safe holidays. See you on the flip side in 2024.

In memory of Sandra Day O'Connor, upon whose shoulders so many women stand, we honor her and thank her for her leadership. RIP.

I want to thank the staff of PN for their generous time and input: Joel Spector, Lenny Stucker, Rich Munde, Katherine Powers, John Fider, Ken Fouts and David Heiser.

On another important note, you will find our membership dues coupon on the back page of this edition. If you have no new information to send, you can just send a check to PN at the address on the coupon OR go to www.peacocknorth.com and click on JOIN to pay with Paypal or CC. If you need to change information or you are a new member, please tear off the coupon, fill out and send to PN with a check. We do LOVE checks if possible. No fees, easy to track.

And now for the good stuff, the rest of the magazine...

The Sacred Heart University Peacock North Archive is now on line and ready for use.
It captures all 35 years of our quarterly publication.

Check it out at
<https://digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/media-nbcpeacock/>

What's Now!

NBCUniversal News Archive Wants Your Memorabilia
By Abby Marks



**NBCUniversal
News Group**

Hello members of Peacock North!

Since connecting with this fabulous group over the past year, it's been my privilege to learn about your unique experiences and contributions to NBC News. The pride and connection among alumni represent our incredible legacy through the hands that helped build it.

To commemorate your remarkable experiences over the past 80 years, we are pleased to officially launch the News Group Collection as part of NBCUniversal Archives & Collections, and welcome News Group employees to help celebrate our incredible heritage. We are asking you to submit your memorabilia and other mementos that capture historic moments in the history of NBC News. Something that is an 'original, one-of-a-kind' piece is preferred – something not mass-produced, but worthy of permanent retention documenting the history of the News Group.

As we look to another US Presidential election in 2024, we are presented with a special opportunity to tell the story of News employees throughout election coverage. While all memorabilia are welcome, please prioritize any memorabilia tied to past elections.

Once we confirm your submission, we'll collect physical contributions to send to our NBCUniversal Archives & Collections team on the West Coast.

Please note that submissions are not tax deductible, and you will be asked to complete a Deed of Gift document as part of the process.

Submit your items to this link, which has already been emailed to PN members in a clickable form:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=-SY1T9aXLUGTOk4wpzEQ9Hr2NPSFVkJMZMgsDwcG-zfqPUREkyQVFEQ0RMU1Y3S0ZYVkJRLVlk4UIZXVC4u>

Warm regards,

Abby Marks

Vice President

Internal Communications

T: 212-664-2752 E: abby.marks@nbcuni.com

What's Now!

History of the National Association of Black Journalists

By Allison Davis



In December of 2025, the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) will celebrate its 50th Anniversary; a milestone for any organization, but particularly noteworthy as from 44 Founders, we've grown to over 4000 members and created the blueprint by which other affinity groups have established their mark on journalism. As one of the 44 founders, I want to say that I was part of the planning team that organized our first gathering in Washington, DC, but sadly, that was not the case. I was 22 years old. A newly-minted graduate from Boston University who not only managed to graduate a semester early, but miraculously got her first job as a writer-producer at WBZ-TV in Boston. WBZ 4 was an NBC affiliate back then and though I had been quite the militant in school, I had been encouraged to apply for the job by a career advisor at BU. NBC's former Vice President of News Bill Wheatley had attended BU and worked at 'BZ as did Washington bureau producer Les Kretman. Kretman paved the way for an interview at the station as they were expanding their news offerings to a 5:30 pm news show titled "First 4 News" with Gene Pell and Pat Mitchell. I got the job and I guess they got more than they bargained for as they soon learned that I wasn't the quiet and passive young journalist that they thought they were hiring.

A few months into my employment, Blacks working in the media in Boston began to gather. The city had gone through some tumultuous times and things really exploded in June of 1974, when Judge W. Arthur Garrity Jr. found the Boston School Committee's efforts to preserve segregation in the city's schools unconstitutional. To address this issue, Judge Garrity required the system to desegregate its schools. I had covered court-ordered busing as a college senior. I remember on the first day of busing, I was hit with a rock by angry white protestors and called the "N-word". When I was hired at WBZ in April of 1975, tensions were still high in Boston and a newly Black media workers group assembled to ensure that the local news outlets told the story from all sides of the issue. Though I was the only Black writer/producer, I was proud to work at WBZ. The station was the first in the Boston market to employ a female reporter, the first to employ a Black full-time reporter and the first to have a Black full-time nightly news anchor. It was even the first to air a minority affairs program and while WBZ-TV was a Westinghouse Broadcasting station, it was one of the first media companies to support the National Association of Black Journalists.



February 1978: President Carter invites NABJ leadership to the White House

In December of 1975, I decided to head to Washington, DC to visit my parents who lived in suburban Maryland. I didn't get home very often but I was anxious to tell my folks about my job and my relatively new boyfriend. I also knew that a few friends were in town to attend a convention of Black elected officials. It was being held at the Sheraton Park Hotel and on Friday, December 12, 1975, I was invited to attend a few receptions held in the early evening. I arrived right on time and met U.S. News & World Report journalist Jeannye Thornton and Bonnie Nance, who was not a journalist, but on the public relations staff of the magazine. We met in the lobby and I remember asking them "where's the party?" They told me to hold on because there was a

meeting we had to attend first. I was completely confused. “Meeting?” I thought. I didn’t come downtown for a meeting. I came for a party.

We entered a relatively large room where at least 50 people sat. Well-known columnist Chuck Stone from the Philadelphia Daily News stood in front of the room as journalists discussed and yes, argued over various issues. I didn’t quite know what was going on but I did know Robert’s Rules of Order and these folks weren’t following it. The meeting had more disorder than order and it was keeping me from attending one of the many receptions. So I boldly said, “Mr. Chairman, point of order!”. Chuck Stone looked at me in utter surprise as he too, knew parliamentary procedure, and he responded, “The chair recognizes the young lady in blue ... Your point?” I made my point and Stone asked, “Who are you young lady?” I told him my name and my affiliation and he said, “Well, Ms. Davis ... You are now our parliamentarian!” I responded, “Of what?” Stone asked those assembled, “What are we calling ourselves?” Someone shouted out, “The National Association of Black Journalists!”

And on that day I became the 1st Parliamentarian of NABJ. Forty-Four journalists signed a piece of yellow legal paper torn from a pad. I was tasked with writing the constitution. Names like WTOP’s Maureen Bunyan and Max Robinson, Joe Davidson, now of the Washington Post, Vernon Jarrett of the Chicago Tribune and Claudia Polley from NBC News were on the list as were Newsday’s Les Payne and the Philadelphia Inquirer’s Acel Moore, both Pulitzer Prize winners. There were reporters from all over the country representing all media. We had gathered to do what so many Black professional groups had done decades before and that was to establish an organization that would both advocate for our profession and our communities. Interestingly, there were a few present at that first meeting that didn’t sign for fear of retribution from their news management. One woman did sign but had to withdraw or else lose her job at a midwest newspaper.

Building an organization like NABJ from scratch was not easy. Founders and early members who joined the organization in its infancy like WNBC/ KNBC’s Paula Madison, were spread all over the country. Communication was difficult. Everything was mimeographed or Xeroxed and snail mailed and all of that cost money which we didn’t have. Maureen Bunyan and Max Robinson dipped into their own pockets paying for stamps, stationary and other items we needed. Our meetings were held in easy-to-get-to cities, but at our own expense. Many of our bosses were not so sure about this organization. I was lucky as Westinghouse Broadcasting and later NBC News allowed me the time off to attend meetings. They didn’t pay for travel, but since several NBC News Black journalists were active, some support was provided. NBC News Atlanta Bureau chief Bob Reid was the organization’s third president serving from 1979-1981.

A lot has changed in the nearly 50 years of our existence. I served as the organization’s Vice-President working to increase membership. We now number close to 4000 members. We also have received enormous support from media giants, like NBC, who take part in our highly successful convention and career fair. Over 30 years ago, we started our Student Projects offering college students an opportunity during our convention, to write and report under the leadership of accomplished journalists. Many of these NABJ “babies” as they are called, include NBC’s Yamiche Alcindor and Shaquille Brewster, ABC’s Rachel Scott and the Washington Post’s Wesley Lowery. There are scores of others who got their start in Student Projects and are enjoying very successful professional lives.

NABJ is the oldest journalists’ group of color and the largest. The National Association of Hispanic Journalists, the Asian American Journalists Association and the Indigenous Journalists Association have all followed with great success.

While 50 years is a remarkable achievement for any organization, it’s also a reminder of the continuous growth and transformation that have defined our journey. This milestone serves as a testament to the dedication, hard work, and vision of everyone involved in NABJ – from the founders, leaders, members and staff to the loyal media supporters and stakeholders. It is sure to be a celebration of a legacy built on passion, perseverance, and a commitment to excellence.



**President Carter
greet's Allison
at the February 1978
NABJ meeting**

*What's Now!***Al Roker Returns to the Macy*s Parade**

In 2022 Al Roker was hospitalized for a serious medical condition which caused him to miss his first Macy*s Thanksgiving Day Parade since 1995.

He returned to this year's Parade in fine form.

His co-hosts, Savannah Guthrie and Hoda Kotb, were overjoyed to see him at the event.



**Another Parade tradition continued this year:
Al interviews President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden.**

*What's Now!***“Our” Tree Lights Up Rock Plaza**

As we celebrate the 90th anniversary of opening day at 30 Rock, we recall that the first Christmas tree at Rockefeller Center was erected in 1931, during the Depression-era construction on the site. Workers decorated a small 20 foot balsam fir with “strings of cranberries, garlands of paper, and even a few tin cans” on Christmas Eve, grateful for the work, and to express their faith and appreciation.



*NBC Family***Al Rice Celebrates 88**

**Happy Birthday to our old pal Al Rice - a true gentleman!
88 never looked so good.
Love this man.**



**Mike Noseworthy and Sam Sambataro
celebrate Al's 88th birthday
in "Stall #1" at Mike's "Bar-N" Barn
in Cape Charles, VA.**

*NBC Family***Joe Klimovitz Hosts Photo Exhibition**

The Friends of the Hesperia Michigan Community Library were pleased to present a gallery exhibit of photographs taken by Hesperia's Joe "Klimo" Klimovitz. Joe chose 20 of his best photos, from a field of 250,000, to share with the community.

Raised in Baltimore, Maryland, Joe began his career in journalistic photography and videography more than 50 years ago. His first assignments were for local news stations in large cities, including WNBC-TV in New York and WMAQ-TV in Chicago. He has traveled the world filming documentaries for PBS. He has covered nine Olympic Games for which he won four National Emmy® Awards. During the war in Iraq, Joe was an embedded journalist covering the war in real time — eating, sleeping and traveling in Armored Personnel Carriers with the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines (nicknamed Dark Horse).

In 1997 Joe moved to Hesperia with his wife, Cathy, (Forbes) working as a freelancer, primarily for NBC News. Now retired, Joe is involved in several volunteer programs that give back to the Hesperia and Oceana County communities. He still enjoys photography which is now a hobby, not a job.

The exhibit ran through November 20th in conjunction with the library's annual photo contest. 8 by 10 color or black and white photos with the theme "country living" were being accepted at the library prior to November 17th. Cash prizes were awarded in three categories: adult, student and library staff. Joe agreed to judge the photos, and a popular vote was also taken. Winners were announced on December 8th.

**Young Klimo with his gear**

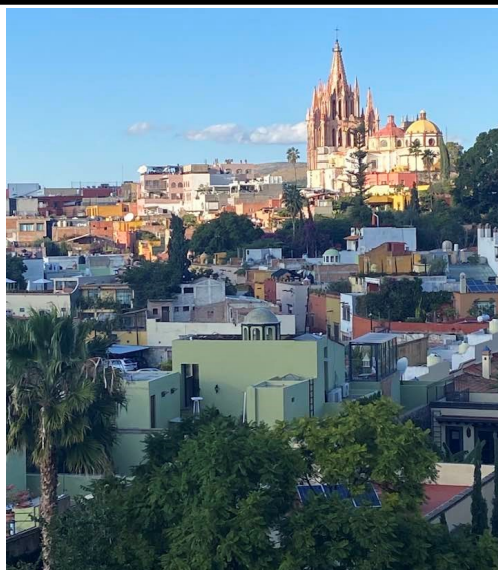
Bright Lights in a Troubled World

Ann Taylor's Seasons in Central Park



Bright Lights in a Troubled World

Vera Pressman's "Day of the Dead" in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico



The cathedral in San Miguel de Allende and more images from around this vibrant, colorful city. It was built on a mountainside in 1542 - altitude 6,200 ft. Colors and flowers, especially marigolds, and skeletons were everywhere. Altars built for the dead loved ones full of gifts and mementos. See the Kirkland/Costco Prosecco bottle?!

Music, fireworks at all hours.
Nov. 1 is the Day of the Dead for children;
Nov. 2 for adults.



*What's Now!***Martin Fletcher at Sacred Heart University****Above photos courtesy of SHU/Joe Alicastro**

On October 18th students at the School of Communication, Media and the Arts at Sacred Heart University attended a guest lecture from former veteran NBC News correspondent Martin Fletcher. Fletcher came to the university to discuss his latest book, “Teachers: The Ones I Can’t Forget,” at the invitation of former NBC News Producer and SHU Director of the Graduate Program in Journalism and Media Production, Professor Joe Alicastro.

His visit was very timely given the terrible news of the war in Israel and Gaza which began with the massacre of 1200 Israelis and abduction of approximately 240 hostages. Martin’s insights as a war correspondent and former Tel Aviv Bureau Chief were extremely enlightening and generated a stimulating question-and-answer session with the students and faculty. Also in attendance were Sacred Heart Universities Provost, Robin Cautin, Ph.D and Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and Director of the School of Communication Media and the Arts, Professor James Castonguay, Ph.D.

--Joe Alicastro

Martin has just written an important blog about the Middle East. Below is the link to the article which I have also sent to the membership via email:

<https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/cpjs-misleading-tally-of-journalist-deaths-is-clickbait-for-israel-haters/>

--Marilyn Altman

**Above photos courtesy of SHU/Adam Bowditch**

Gray Matters by Bill Freeda

Retiree Discount for Peacock Streaming Service

From Beth Richardson,
Senior Vice President Global Reward and Global Mobility
at NBCUniversal Media, LLC.

We are excited to launch the Peacock retiree discount program.



Peacock now offers a discount for all eligible retirees at Comcast NBCUniversal by providing a yearly code for Peacock Premium Service at \$19.99 (regularly \$49.99). Retirees can renew their code for up to 3 years from their retirement date.

All Comcast, NBCUniversal and Universal Orlando retirees who are eligible for Courtesy Services (now XPE – Xfinity Promoter Experience) will be eligible. The three-year time frame is consistent with how the XPE retiree discount is structured.

Retirees will need to contact their employee service center via email at HR.Connection@nbcuni.com and validate their status as a retiree. They will then be sent a discount code which can be used when signing up for Peacock at www.peacocktv.com



The Pension Rights Center

The Pension Rights Center, founded in 1976, is a national nonprofit, nonpartisan consumer organization that protects and promotes the retirement security of workers, retirees and their families.

If anyone you know is having a problem locating or collecting a pension they can contact the PRC and ask for help at 202-296-3776 or 800-400-7242. Their website is pensionrights.org/find-help

While I was a member of the CWA Retired Members Council Executive Board I invited Karen Friedman, the Director of the Pension Rights Center, to speak to the RMC Board. She accepted and shared a great deal of helpful information with us. Since the PRC is a non-profit organization and their services are free, they rely on contributions. Among their supporters is the AARP.

Finally, on November 1st I was in a virtual meeting with the GE Human Resources team which confirmed we will continue to receive the \$1,000 per person Medical expense reimbursement through at least 2024.

Tributes to Silent Microphones

Larry Cirillo Remembered by his Son, Lawrence



Elario “Larry” Cirillo, a luminary in the world of sports broadcasting and a beloved figure among family and friends, passed away on the morning of October 27th at the age of 87. Born in Queens and raised in Brooklyn, Larry’s journey through life was marked by passion, dedication, and his indomitable spirit.

After graduating from Bushwick High School, Larry’s pursuit of a career in radio and television pushed him to attend a broadcasting college in Manhattan. This led to his initial venture as a disc jockey in rural Iowa, and marked the beginning of a career that would take him to extraordinary heights. Recognizing the need for further education, his ambition led him back to the city, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Radio, Television, and Film from the esteemed New York University in 1961, graduating with honors.

Larry immediately secured the position of Radio Director for WNBC. His career trajectory was momentarily interrupted when he was drafted to serve in the Army during the Berlin Crisis of 1961. Secure in the knowledge that his

job would be waiting for him when he returned, he left for basic training at Fort Bragg in North Carolina, where during his downtime he found an opportunity to host the televised “Putt-Putt” National Championship.

Upon his return to New York City, Larry met and married his first wife, Carol Sullivan, and continued to ascend in his career. He transitioned from radio to become an Associate Director for the NBC Television Network, covering major stories in both news and sports. In 1968, faced with the choice of focusing on one or the other, it was Carol’s intuition that helped guide Larry to commit to the world of sports broadcasting, a decision that proved prescient as the native New Yorker suddenly found himself at the forefront of two historic events in 1969 — the stunning upset of the Baltimore Colts by the New York Jets in Super Bowl III and the surprising victory of the New York Mets over the Baltimore Orioles in the World Series.

Larry rose through the ranks to become one of NBC’s foremost Sports Producers, leaving an indelible mark on the industry. In 1975, at the age of 39, he took over NBC’s golf coverage and pioneered the concept of using “foot soldiers” – walking announcers who could provide more detailed analysis – a position which all the other sports networks then adopted. He also worked hard to increase the attention paid to women’s golf. When Nancy Lopez burst onto the scene in 1978, the LPGA telecasts Larry produced helped make her a household name. His coverage of the 1991 Ryder Cup, famously known as “The War by the Shore”, played a pivotal role in transforming that event into the spectacle that it is today.

Not limited to golf, Larry was the lead producer for NBC’s NFL broadcasts. This included 3 Super Bowls, as well as a few of the most iconic playoff games in NFL History – “The Freezer Bowl”, “The Epic in Miami”, and back-to-back AFC Championship games forever known simply as “The Drive” and “The Fumble”. His versatility extended to producing swimming in the Olympics, highlighted by introducing the world to the young phenom Janet Evans in the 1988 games in Seoul. During his over 30 years with NBC, he won multiple Emmy® Awards in an illustrious career.

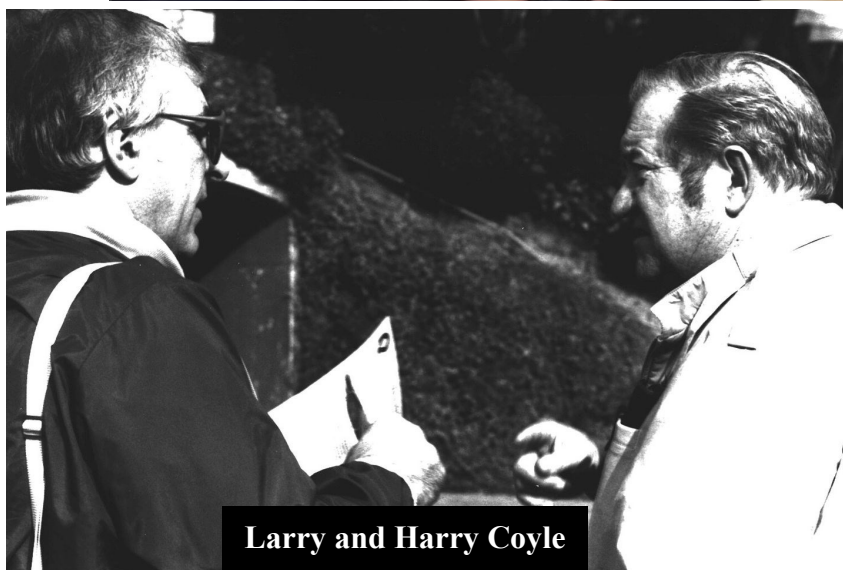
Retiring with a legacy of accomplishments, Larry faced numerous medical setbacks, always with the determination to get back out on the golf course. He experienced profound loss in 2007 when he said goodbye to Carol, who died of lung cancer. However, life brought him a second chance at happiness when he met and married his second wife, Sandy Hulst. Together, they embarked on adventures around the world, fulfilling Larry’s dream of exploring the places where he once only produced sporting events.

Sadly, his journey came to a sudden end at age 87 due to congestive heart failure. Larry leaves behind a legacy of innovation, passion, and resilience. He is survived by his loving wife Sandy, three children: Lawrence, Allison, and Matthew; his daughters-in-law Anke and Amy; his cherished grandchildren, Katie, Jon, MJ, and Joey; and his sister Phyllis DiGirolamo. Elario “Larry” Cirillo will be remembered not only for his contributions to sports broadcasting, but also for his devout faith, and the warmth and love he shared with his family and friends.





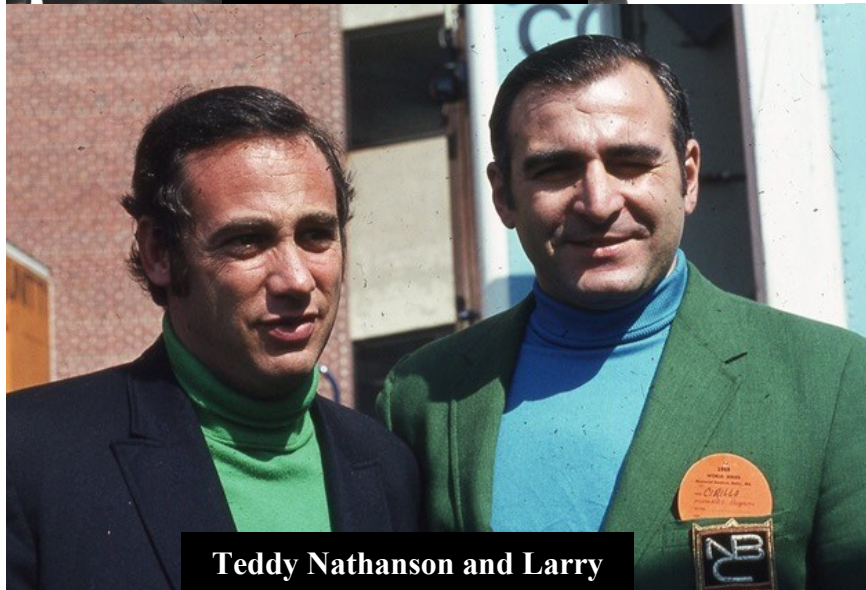
**Seoul Olympics Water Sports Production Crew.
2 PAs , Chyron Operator, AD Dick Cline, Larry and TD Ray Bonassi.**



Larry and Harry Coyle

**“Larry was a force of nature.
A big personality with a great
sense of humor. You always knew
he was in the room,
and the room was always better
for his presence.”**

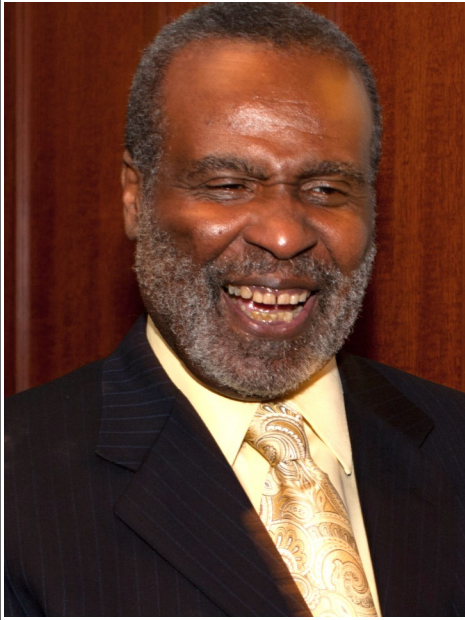
Bob Costas



Teddy Nathanson and Larry



Larry and Sandy

*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Don Washington Remembered by his Niece, Regina Christie**

Donald C. Washington was born in Brooklyn, New York to Janet and William Washington on January 9, 1941. Donald attended Brooklyn College and served in the Army, Missile Unit, ARADCOM (Army Air Defense Command) San Fernando Valley.

He enjoyed a decades-long and successful career at NBC News as an Associate Director until his retirement and was a member of the Directors Guild of America until his death. He loved his career and would often put NBC at the top of the gratitude list he used to keep.

He found a home away from home at NBC, where he was extremely well-respected. His friends at NBC remember him as “A fixture of 30 Rock with his booming voice, impeccable dress and a gentle and erudite spirit. He was a classic gentleman and a consummate professional.” He truly loved being part of NBC and made his family proud. His mother tuned into every show and would not turn off the television until she saw his name scroll onscreen as part of the show’s closing credits.

Donald was extremely passionate about the theater (as evidenced by the stacks of Playbills he collected), he loved singing (he always had his sheet music on hand--just in case Broadway called), and he relished traveling the world (always seeking to learn the language before his travels). He was also an avid animal lover and generously supported the North Shore Animal League for many years.

He was an incredible storyteller, intellectual, insightful, creative, and always curious to learn more. He made his mark on the world and left a deep imprint on everyone who knew him.

He will be missed.

Donald was preceded in death by his mother Janet Washington; father William Washington; brother Reginald Washington; sister Wilhelmina Campbell (husband Lorenzo); and his loving lifetime partner for over 40 years Raymond

“I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

— Maya Angelou

Thank you Uncle Donald for how you made us feel.
May you rest happily ever after.

Condolences may be sent to
Regina Christie
7 Bruce Lane
Westport, CT 06880-1701

*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Felicia Taylor**

Felicia Roderica Sturt Taylor a longtime resident of Palm Beach, died Friday, September 8, 2023 at home. She was 59 years old. Born August 28, 1964 in Los Angeles, she was the daughter of actor Rod Taylor, who starred in Alfred Hitchcock's *The Birds*, and fashion model Mary Hilem (later Schott).

A true child of Hollywood, her godfathers were John Wayne and John Ford. She was a graduate of Milton Academy and of Northwestern University, where she earned a Bachelor's degree in English.

After her careers as a business correspondent for CNBC and weekend anchor for WNBC-TV in New York, Ms. Taylor followed the family trail in to the film business and produced the acclaimed "Far From Home," a documentary examining the effect of climate change on the people of Senegal, particularly its children.

Ms. Taylor was married twice. Her first marriage, to Charles Schuster, ended in divorce. In November 2021, she married Peter Gottsegen, who survives her.

She was a member of the Beach Club and of the Screen Actors Guild and was a generous supporter of South Florida PBS. In addition to her husband, she is survived by several cousins in Virginia and the Carolinas. A memorial service is planned for January in Palm

Beach. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Town of Palm Beach United Way or to South Florida PBS.

© New York Times, September 17, 2023.

Miki Alicastro

After an eleven-year battle with cancer, Miriam "Miki" Judge Alicastro is peacefully at rest. She died on All Saints Day, Wednesday November 1, 2023, at the age of 71.

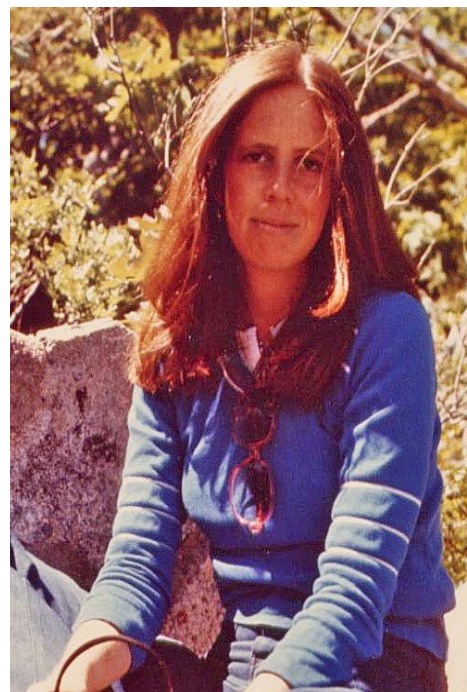
Born in NYC and raised in Rowayton, CT, Miki had many talents and accomplishments. She began her career at the Boston Public Library and followed with positions as an administrative assistant in the School of Communication at Boston University and the Theater Department at New York University. She then went on to work for NBC News, ABC News and finally NBC Sports as a Senior Unit Manager.

When her husband, Joseph Alicastro, was assigned as NBC News Rome Bureau Chief the two packed their bags and lived for three glorious years in the Eternal City

Returning to Rowayton, Miki began pursuing with dedication waterfowl wildlife rescuing, master gardening, painting, photography and loving her three Scottish Terriers. For years she was a board member and advisory board member of the Norwalk Land Trust. She was also a steward of the Farm Creek Nature Preserve where the entrance gate of the preserve will henceforth be called "Miki's Gate."

Miki is survived by her husband, Joseph Alicastro, of Rowayton, CT, her brother, Thomas Judge, of Limoux, France, her nephews, nieces, and a grandniece. A memorial celebration of Miki's life and achievements is planned for the Spring of 2024.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Miki's memory can kindly be given to the Norwalk Land Trust <https://norwalklandtrust.org/how-to-help/membership/>



Tributes to Silent Microphones

Ellen McKeefe



Ellen McKeefe, an Emmy-nominated television news producer who was one of the early women behind the scenes during a long career at NBC News, died August 7, 2023 in Sarasota, Florida of cancer. She was 78. Ellen Mary McKeefe was born in Georgetown, Washington DC on September 16, 1944 to Charlotte (Parker) and Francis McKeefe and lived most of her youth in upstate New York. She graduated from Skidmore College with a degree in Fine Arts, minoring in Renaissance Art History, in 1966. She began her career working for a magazine doing layout and production. This led to writing, story editing, and film production for the US Department of the Interior in Washington and, subsequently, her start as a field producer at NBC News in New York in 1974.

During her years with NBC News Ellen covered events in Washington, Rome, New York, Boston, Miami, London, the Middle East and Central/South America serving variously as news producer, bureau chief and on-scene manager at major domestic and foreign news events. While at NBC News, Ellen interrupted her news career for a year-long sabbatical in Bologna, Italy, where she studied Italian and volunteered in an art restoration studio.

After retirement from NBC News, Ellen lived in Sarasota and continued freelance television news and sports production for NBC, ABC, CBS, PBS, Fox, ESPN, National Geographic and others. She viewed one of her most significant professional accomplishments as covering the aftermath of the worst terrorist attack on US soil, September 11, 2001, where she organized and managed the field production for ABC News at Huffmann Aviation in Venice Florida, a training site of the terrorists.

Ellen was a gifted painter. Watercolor painting in Sarasota and Italy became a passion, along with sailing, and birding in Florida and Scotland.

She is survived by her sister, Ann Rezek of Lake Suzy, Florida, her nieces, nephew and their families.

For many years Ellen was a volunteer Audubon Society birding guide at Audubon's Celery Fields Nature Center.

Memorial contributions may be made in her name on line at:
<https://www.sarasotaaudubon.org/donate/>



The notice went out to Sarasota friends to come together on October 26th to celebrate Ellen McKeefe. That is about as close to a 'tribute' or 'memorial' (certainly nothing funereal) Ellen would have allowed if she were to have any say in it. The announcement described her as "a talented producer at NBC New who traveled the world on assignments prior to retiring to Sarasota where she continued to freelance." It described her as a gifted painter, avid birder, a rescue dog lover, and a member of the Luffing Lassies women's sailing club.

So we gathered at the Sarasota Sailing Squadron's headquarters and set up a couple of tables displaying some of her art work. We toasted her with Prosecco and shared Ellen stories. The group of about 12, were from her sailing, birding, and painting worlds. Some overlap, some only knew her from one world ... none except me, from her pre-Sarasota NBC News days.

We rang the sailing club bell (a tradition) in her memory. Each rang once. Then we went out into Sarasota Bay, just off the Ringling Museum. This is where Ellen had her mother's ashes placed and where she wanted hers put. After, we each spread rose petals on the water.

She leaves a divot not easily replaced.

Don Critchfield

Friends Remember Ellen

Ellen and I knew of each other — I was the new kid on the block as a field producer in the Pittsburgh bureau, yes, the Pittsburgh bureau of NBC News, and she was an established star at that point — when we were working as part of a team of at least forty during the nuclear plant crisis at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania in 1979 — a huge story. Tracey Carruthers, our bureau coordinator, was typing out a credentials list when Ellen said there must be some mistake, you've got Connor with my birth date. Tracey said no, September 16, 1944 was his too. So started a deep friendship. When my son Ben was considering apply to college as an art major, I called Ellen and asked what she got out of her art major at Skidmore, and she told me "an appreciation of beauty, and beautiful things."

I think that appreciation of beauty helped her in a career that had some dangerous moments, like all that time in Central America covering war and murder. Or being the grown-up in charge in Beirut during the bad days there, wearing a money belt full of Benjamins to pay the drivers and bribe the techs at the uplink. Beauty was a refuge and a restorative at the end of those assignments and why she left NBC for a time and went to help salvage art treasures damaged in flooding in Italy. Art was always part of her life, right up to her plan to go to Italy this year for more watercolor workshops.

When I left NBC News in 1989 to work independently, Ellen had the boarding kennel on the Eastern Shore, and I always took our Aussie, Hennessy, out there when we were off on a long trip. Ellen said she thought Hennessy could probably pass 3rd grade. She was a very good judge of dogs, and seemed happy there - a long way from the art museums. But she eventually sold the place, she said, because she was tired of wrestling 80-pound labs. But she always had a dog!

Jim Connor

My most vivid memory of working with Ellen in Washington is the night of Reagan's inauguration when the Iran hostages were released. Ellen and Mary Wolf had worked with me on numerous hostage stories, so we could recognize their faces. Ellen suggested that she and Mary join me in the studio and I was able to go on the air and, with their prompting, identify practically all of the hostages by name as they stepped off the plane in Algiers. Ellen and Mary were sitting on the floor in Studio "F" as we reeled off the names. Pretty amazing moment.

George Lewis

I remember when Ellen first came to work at NBC, in 1974, adding a touch of stability to our rowdy group that made up the then-brand-new Northeast Bureau, tucked into 30 Rock headquarters in New York. Later, I worked with her often when she was den mother to our bureaus in Boston, Miami, and Rome, and when she field produced for me a long venture through some coal mine crisis in West Virginia. Off hours, she kept my wife Honey in stitches during an extensive tour of Northern Italy. And I remember fondly, mildly boozy Sundays Honey and I shared with her at her country place on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Through it all, she was extremely organized—a master of logistics—but she also loved to recount wildly funny yarns about the crazy antics of the correspondents and crews she supervised. She had seen it all. She was one of a kind.

Robert Hager



*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Don Browne**

Don Browne, president of Telemundo Communications Group from 2005 to 2011, died Aug. 29 at his home in Miami Beach after battling a brain tumor. He was 80.

Browne was known for steering the growth of Telemundo's original content production. Under his direction, a partnership was established with Mexico's Televisa to bring Telemundo content to Mexico, and the company experienced record-breaking ratings.

"As a pioneer of Telemundo's signature original content productions, Don leaves behind a legacy of championing Spanish-language media and Hispanics at Telemundo and throughout the industry," Telemundo said in a statement. "A visionary leader, Don earned a national reputation for his leadership in the recruitment and career development of women and minorities. His memory, as a dedicated father, husband, friend and mentor to so many, will be cherished by all of his colleagues and the entire Telemundo family."

Before his time running Telemundo in Miami, Browne was president and general manager of WTVJ-TV, NBC's station based in Miami. Prior to

WTVJ, Browne served as executive vice president of NBC News in New York from 1991 to 1993. During his time in New York, he oversaw *Today* and helped launch *Dateline*.

A longtime proponent of the U.S. Spanish-language television market, Browne played an important role in NBC's acquisition of Telemundo in 2001.

Browne's achievements were honored when he was inducted to the Broadcasting and Cable Hall of Fame in 2008. He was also feted in 2006 when he received the Florida Governor's Points of Light Award. In 2004, he was given the Ida B. Wells Award for his dedication to increasing diversity in the workplace.

Browne was known for the work he did to develop the careers of underrepresented communities, serving as a charter member of the NBC News Taskforce on Women and Minorities. He was also a member of NBC's Taskforce on Diversity.

Born in Toms River, N.J., Browne graduated from Fairleigh Dickinson University, and also played football and track and field at the University of South Carolina.

Browne's survivors include his two sons, Christopher and Ryan; and two granddaughters. His wife, Maria, died in 2021.

By Jaden Thompson, © Variety, August 30, 2023

(Photo by Bryan Bedder/© Getty Images)

*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Russ Moore**

Russ Moore, Emmy ®-award winning former senior White House producer for NBC News, died after a long illness September 3 at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital in Alexandria, VA. He was 82.

Moore, who spent nearly 20 of his 40 years at NBC News on the White House beat, covered the administrations of Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush. Working with correspondents such as Judy Woodruff, Andrea Mitchell and Chris Wallace, Moore traveled the United States and the world. He oversaw White House coverage of the shooting of Ronald Reagan, the Reagan-Gorbachev summits in Geneva and Iceland, Operation Desert Storm, the Monica Lewinsky scandal, the Clinton impeachment, the September 11 attacks, and the war in Iraq. In 1961, Moore joined NBC News in Washington in as a motorcycle courier, racing film back from the White House and other sites to be processed in time for the evening news. Soon he was winning awards as a film and tape editor in Washington.

For a few years, Moore worked out of the NBC News Atlanta bureau as a field producer where he covered the Sadat-Begin peace negotiations in Egypt and Israel that led to the signing of the Camp David Accords with President Jimmy Carter.



While covering the war in El Salvador, he was badly injured when his jeep tumbled down a cliff. Moore went to Poland to cover the shipyard strikes under Lech Walesa. He also covered Jimmy Carter's presidential campaign. In 1979, Moore moved back to Washington and later became the NBC News producer covering Walter Mondale's unsuccessful bid for president. Then he was named senior White House producer for NBC News. "Russ always had this uncanny knack for knowing where the president might show up unexpectedly," said one of his NBC News colleagues. "He'd position a camera where no one else did, and NBC would get exclusive footage time and again."

Russell Thurston Moore was born to George Sidney Moore and Peggy Aurelia Thurston on August 11, 1941, in Detroit, MI. He grew up in Detroit, Charlottesville, VA, and Washington, DC.

In 1988, Moore married NBC News colleague Kristin Jessup, a writer-producer at *Today* in Washington. Moore retired from NBC News in 2001.

Moore is survived by his devoted wife Kristin; daughter Donna Moore-Watson (Kenneth Watson) of Tampa, FL, and Hilo, HI; son Dale Russell Moore (Alexis Lewisohn) of West Palm Beach, FL, and daughter Mariah Alexandra Jessup Moore (Sascha Poeschl) of Berlin, Germany; as well as four grandchildren, Isabella and Charles Lewisohn-Moore, and Julian and Francis Moore Poeschl.

A memorial service will be scheduled at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to

The Committee to Protect Journalists

POB 2675

New York, NY 10108.

*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Edward Brown**

Edward Brown passed away on September 15th, just 6 days shy of his 90th birthday. During nearly 50 years in broadcast journalism he reported on domestic and foreign affairs for NBC News and for New York stations, WNEW Radio & TV, and WMCA. Retiring to Chapel Hill, North Carolina in 1994, he did his final news anchoring in 1997 on WCHL. In 2000 he relocated to Sun City Center, Florida, where he served two years as Editor-in-Chief of The News of Sun City Center, and wrote documentaries with music for local community theater.

Brown's assignments for NBC News consisted of anchoring Radio Network newscasts, presenting news analysis on NBC's News and Information Service and in-the-field reporting, including the national political conventions of 1976. He wrote and narrated documentaries for the NBC Radio Network, among them: "The Press and the Third World," and "Religion in America."

Before joining NBC in 1975, Brown spent ten years with WNEW Radio, N.Y. as newscaster and news analyst. He won AP and UPI awards for his commentaries on Watergate, and other issues. Brown made frequent news analysis appearances on WNEW TV's "10 O'clock News", and had assignments to Cuba and the Viet Nam negotiations in Paris.

While with WMCA Radio, N.Y., (1959-1965) Brown was a newscaster and regular substitute host on The Barry Gray Show. He co-wrote and narrated documentaries on slum housing and capital punishment that received Peabody and Sigma Delta Chi awards for "distinguished reporting."

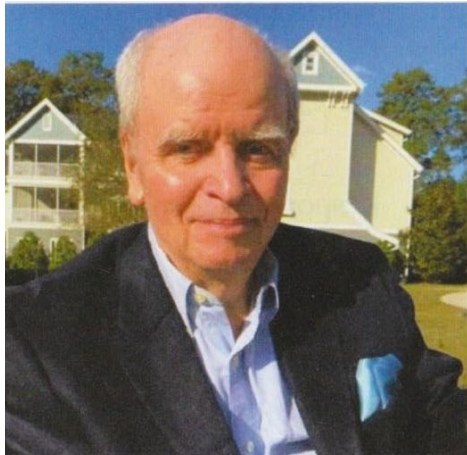
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Friends Remember Him...

Ed not only sounded great on air, he was a terrific writer and an inspiration to many of us then youngsters, myself included. - Bill Stoller

One of the real greats of NYC radio. - Tom Foty

He was a good friend and a pleasure to work with. - John Ogle

*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Robert M. Hickey, Remembered by his nephew, Brian**

Robert Maurice Hickey, the long-time companion of the late Mamye Smith, passed away at age 78 on July 27, 2023 in Birmingham, AL. His funeral mass was held in Alabama, and his burial followed in Boston, MA.

Bob was born November 10, 1945 in Manhattan, NY. He attended Brooklyn Prep High School, and graduated from the University of Dayton in Ohio. He served in Vietnam as a supply officer. Upon returning to Brooklyn, he worked in the health food industry. Bob resigned from his job to become a full-time caretaker for his mother, who was suffering from cancer.

While living in Brooklyn he was active in the local neighborhood association where he met Mamye Smith, who worked at NBC for almost 20 years. In 1977 she was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis and eventually retired.

Mamye and Bob dated, enjoyed traveling, and loved going to the casinos in Atlantic City. They were very active in the Brooklyn Multiple Sclerosis Society and Bob often coordinated social activities for the group.

After Mamye's retirement from NBC, the two enjoyed attending NBC Peacock North Luncheons.

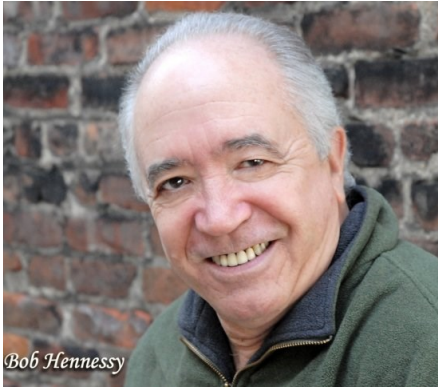
For New Year's 2018 Bob & Mamye took a cruise to the Bahamas, which was one of their favorite things to do. Unfortunately, Bob suffered a severe stroke on December 30, 2017. He spent a year recovering in Brooklyn, while Mamye moved to Birmingham, AL and was taken care of by her sister. Once Bob was strong enough, he also moved to Birmingham so they could see each other often. Mamye passed away on October 29, 2022.

Although Bob was paralyzed on his right side and could not speak, he always kept a twinkle in his eye and all his caregivers enjoyed their time with him.



Tributes to Silent Microphones

Bob Hennessy Remembered by Bill Freeh



Bob Hennessy

Robert J. "Bob" Hennessy, my friend, and EJ partner for many years, passed away on November 20, 2023, at age 78. He requested there be no funeral or memorial service.

Long before his TV career, Bob was a store announcer, known as "Bargain Bob", announcing various sales and deals over the store's PA system. He had a great voice, and I always told him he should have gone into radio instead of TV.

Bob was a New Yorker. Before coming to NBC, he worked at WNYC-TV and then WOR-TV, both in New York. He was an EJ cameraman for most of his time at NBC, and later became a crew chief. Bob also served in the U. S. Army Reserve.

Over the years together, we did hundreds of interviews, standups, location shots, and dozens of trips around the U. S., in Europe, and the Middle East. The longest time we spent together was several weeks covering the Israel-Lebanon war in 1982, mostly in

Israel, but also Lebanon, Syria, and Cyprus. Additionally, Bob did several tours for NBC in Iran and Iraq.

Bob was affectionately known as "Henny" to all the camera and sound crews. While everyone has a Henny story, I'd like to share one of mine. Bob was a smoker, but very considerate. He never smoked in the crew car. He also was the only person I knew who could smoke a cigarette out of the side of his mouth, without ever touching it. On Election Day, Nov 8, 1988, we were assigned to the "Precinct Express", a jet which would touch down at various cities in the Western U. S. to shoot exit polls. We were with correspondent Tom Pettit and producer Carol Ann Mears, also smokers. When we took off from Amarillo, TX, they all lit up. I was the only non-smoker. Bob looked at me with piercing eyes, and said "Sorry, pal, you're outnumbered here." I escaped from the cloud of smoke to the cockpit of the private jet, and remained there in between stops, all the way to California.



**The Precinct Express group:
Tom Pettit, Carol Ann Mears, Bill and Bob.**

After Bob retired from NBC several years ago he had a new part-time career as a voice actor, doing commercials, voice overs, and books on tape. In his last years, he was thrilled to host a radio show on *Doo Wop Radio*, spinning oldies and chatting with the audience, being the DJ he always wanted to be! His professional life ended on a very happy note.

Bob leaves behind his dear wife Ellison, and his many friends at NBC and beyond.

As another Bob would say, "Thanks for the memories."



In Israel with IDF officer, July 30, 1982.



The Newsies: Bob H, Bob Riggio, John Jewczyn, Harry Baker, & Geoff Enfield, with Kermit and Miss Piggy.

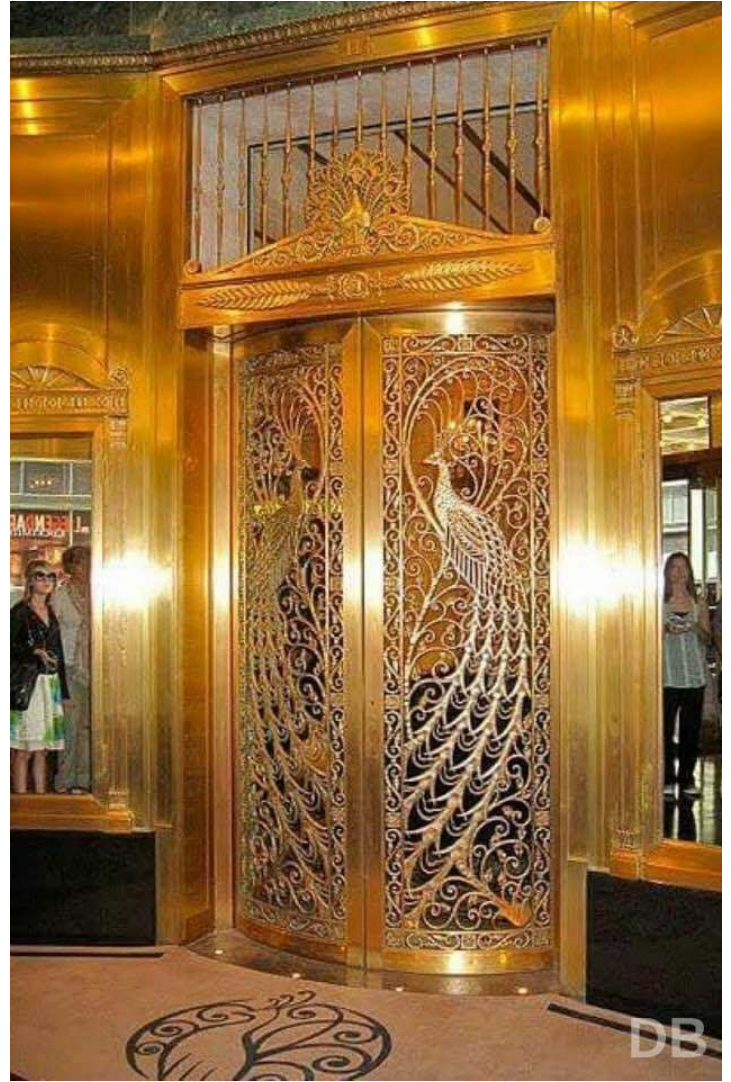
*We Get Pictures***Scenic Bike Rides with Steve and Fran Cimino and Peter Caesar**

Riding bikes, whether road, gravel, or pedal assist (eBike), is a great way to spend a day outdoors and get a great workout. It's important to stay fit to enjoy a lengthy retirement. In the photo above, Fran, and I are enjoying a 30-mile ride on the south fork of Long Island. We usually ride 18 miles along the shore, have a great lunch and a glass of wine at a restaurant and then take a shorter path home.



In the second photo, Peter Caesar and I are riding along Meadow Lane in Southampton. Behind us is the former Calvin Klein estate. Peter is on a road bike, I'm on a gravel bike. This is our favorite ride.

As you can see, bike riding is not only physical, but very peaceful.

Million Dollar Peacock Tiffany Doors ~ House of Peacock ~ Chicago

This world renowned door, actually a piece of unusual real estate art, is one of three in creation called the "Peacock Doors". While the design reflects the majestic and mystical bird, the door actually pays homage to the famed "House of Peacock" - Chicago's historic and celebrated emporium of fine jewelry, fine china and imported gifts of silver and gold, founded by Elijah Peacock in 1837, Chicago's first incorporated business. It was located at State and Monroe Streets in the Loop Retail Historic District

The House of Peacock in the Palmer House Hotel flourished throughout most of the 20th century under the leadership of Charles Daniel Peacock, Elijah's son. The design is that of Louis Comfort Tiffany. Each of the three doors weigh more than a half-ton, and all three are valued at more than a million dollars.

Flickr post by Bill Badzo

President John F. Kennedy

*“And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you —
ask what you can do for your country.”*

*My fellow citizens of the world: ask not what America will do for you,
but what together we can do for the freedom of man.”*

Words which lit a fire under an entire generation.

We remember and honor John F. Kennedy, 35th President of the United States, May 29, 1917- Nov. 22, 1963. Everyone born by 1955 knew where they were at the time of his death.

He was the youngest man and the first Roman Catholic to be elected as President of the United States. He fought to ensure equal rights and opportunities for all Americans. He encouraged Americans to help lift those less fortunate than themselves, both at home and abroad. He challenged the nation to reach for the impossible by landing a man on the Moon before the end of the decade.

His death and burial changed television news forever.

--Marilyn Altman

The Kicker



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