



George L. Zucker

April 20, 1933 - May 7, 2020

George Zucker, born on April 20th., 1933-died on May 7th., 2020

In his four-decades career, including 34 years with The Associated Press, Zucker covered some of the nation's top stories, among them the 1965 Palm Sunday tornadoes in Indiana ,the 1968 assassination of Sen. Robert Kennedy in Los Angeles, and subsequent murder trial of Sirhan Sirhan; and the 1972 shooting of Alabama Gov. George Wallace in Maryland. His transfer to Philadelphia in 1977 missed the second Johnstown Flood by four months, but was in time for Three Mile Island and MOVE.

Zucker, was a New Jersey native and a Korean war-era veteran, He edited Air Force newspapers in Texas, Alaska and Georgia and was a radio reporter in Savannah, Ga., and Indianapolis, Ind., before joining UPI in 1961. He moved to the AP bureau in Indianapolis three years later and his promotion to the Los Angeles bureau followed in 1966 in time to cover Ronald Reagan's first campaign for California governor.

In 1969, Zucker was named AP chief of bureau in Honolulu, and later headed AP bureaus in Baltimore, Nashville and Des Moines. Zucker ran AP news operations in Pennsylvania for 20 years until his retirement in 1998 as AP's senior bureau chief. He was a regular contributor to the online magazine, New Partisan, in New York until its demise in 2007.

Zucker, 87, and his wife Judi were married 61 years. They lived in Shannondell (Audubon,PA) , where he contributed to the quarterly magazine,

Expressions. He is survived by his wife, three children, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in his memory to Ardmore Food Pantry, 36 Ardmore Ave., Ardmore, PA 19003

Tribute Wall

MA

“ I loved George. No one else can fill his shoes. Who couldn't love his cantankerous, opinionated self? He was always up for a rousing debate that would end with one of his loving bearhugs and a smooch. His pure love and encouragement for our little family will surely be missed. Our travels, over the years, to meet up with the Zucker clan, was always one of the highlights of my life. More than a brother in law, always a friend. Until we meet again. Try to stay out of trouble up there. Love Maur

maureen Anderson - May 17, 2020 at 10:22 AM

JA

“ George was my brother-in-law. He married my sister Judi in 1958, when I was a kid of 11. Within a year or 2, and they were living in Indianapolis, George drove his 1953(?) Jaguar coupe back to NJ for vacation, and I remember helping him painstakingly wash & wax off all the road tar and bird detritus that he had managed to accumulate during the trip. While he has 3 cherished children who filled his life with lots of joy, this car was surely his first. Also remembering 1981. I am a huge college basketball fan. George as AP Bureau Chief in PA at the time, was able to obtain several tickets for my friends and me to attend the Final Four at the Spectrum in Philadelphia. Indiana beat North Carolina in the final, 63 to 50, with Isiah Thomas MVP. Magical! Thank you George!
Jeff Anderson

Jeff Anderson - May 15, 2020 at 05:18 PM

MS

“ Dear Judi and Family,

From the time we worked together at the LA bureau, George was my closest and longest-lasting AP friend. I followed in his footsteps as bureau chief in Honolulu and we always stayed in frequent touch. George was an invaluable source of advice and encouragement. He represented the best in the AP, which is to say he represented the best in humanity. He was honest, open and empathetic. I recall his saying that he was ambitious for the AP, not for himself. That is a testament to his character and to his ability to balance profession with family life.

My deepest sympathy. I won't forget George's life and example.

Mike Short (Boston bureau chief 1978-1999)

mshort1@comcast.net

Michael M. Short - May 13, 2020 at 03:00 PM

RK

“ My sincere condolences to Judi and their family. George was simply awesome. He gave me the opportunity in 1980 to run the AP Harrisburg bureau and then proceeded over the next 16 years to send me an incredible array of talented young reporters who used the bureau as a launching pad that took them to the White House, AP bureaus in China, Japan and Mexico, to ABC News and the Washington Post among other journalistic posts. One of those hires was John Daniszewski who became AP's Foreign Editor. And all had been hired to the AP by George. George himself was an incredible writer, especially evident in his column "War Stories," tales from his varied experiences during a stellar journalistic career. He was an incredible mentor, deeply spiritual and an amazing person. He will be cherished and fondly remembered.

Rich Kirkpatrick

Richard Kirkpatrick - May 11, 2020 at 06:12 PM

TB

“ George was my friend, my mentor and, according to my husband, the best boss I ever had. He was a champion and cheerleader for his staff; and I will always cherish the advice, wisdom, care and concern he generously provided during the 14 years we worked together.

When people refer to the "end of an era," I always wonder "what era?" In the case of George, the era is the one in which journalists were true storytellers who spun not tall tales but rather all-too-true accounts of scoundrels and villains, politicians and potentates, gamblers and gadflies. George did so with panache, writing with a flair uniquely his own that even extended to his annual Christmas letters (written in proper journalistic style -- e.g. last name, age, city -- and with a hefty nod to AP style). George had thousands of stories, and we are all that much richer for his willingness and ability to share them with us. I pray his readership in the hereafter is equally appreciative.

Tara Bradley-Steck - May 11, 2020 at 02:27 PM

JM

Well said, Tara. (Jana)

jana moore - May 11, 2020 at 04:24 PM

RA

“ So sorry to hear about George. I am forever grateful for George getting me transferred to Los Angeles which remains my home. Many fond memories of the Zuckers in both Indianapolis and Los Angeles. Rachel Eberle Ambrose

Rachel E Ambrose - May 11, 2020 at 01:05 PM

KC

“ To the entire Zucker family, Sending my deepest sympathies for the loss of George! George was a wonderful Man, I will always have great memories of him and Judi and the times I spent with them. He will be missed but he is your angel now and will always watch over you! Thinking of all of you during this heartbreaking time. Hugs and love - Kelly Corcoran and Family!

Kelly Corcoran - May 09, 2020 at 06:11 PM