



Philip H. Joyce

December 15, 1928 - June 22, 2016

Marlton- Philip H. Joyce, 87, of Marlton, N.J., died Wednesday, June 22, in Cooper Medical Center, Camden, N.J., as the result of a head injury. He was a longtime journalist who served as the Commentary Page editor for the Philadelphia Inquirer from 1971 to 1996.

Born and raised in Albany, N.Y., he attended Blessed Sacrament School and graduated from Christian Brothers Academy in 1946. He graduated from Siena College in 1952 with a B.A. in sociology.

He was a Korean War veteran who served in the U.S. Army from 1952 to 1954 — first as a medic for the 29th Regimental Combat Team on Okinawa and later as public information specialist for the Ryukyu Army command in Okinawa.

From 1954 to 1955, he worked as assistant sports editor at the Post Star in Glens Falls, N.Y. From 1955 to 1956, he worked at the Saratogian in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., serving as general assignment reporter, city editor, wire editor and sports editor. From 1956 to 1962, he worked as police beat reporter for the Albany Times Union, filling in as night city editor on weekends. It was there that he met another reporter, the former Mary Tessier of Schenectady, N.Y., who would be his wife for more than 50 years.

He worked at the Courier Express in Buffalo, N.Y., from 1962 to 1968, where his assignments included covering the New York State Legislature, as well as the City Hall, federal and police beats, in addition to filling in as photo editor, news editor, copy editor and wire editor. He joined the editorial board of the Philadelphia Inquirer in 1968 as an editorial writer. In 1971, at the request of his editor, he started what was then a new concept in journalism called the Background and Opinion Page, then the Op-Ed page (because it was opposite the editorial page) and later the Commentary Page.

In that capacity, he selected, edited and occasionally wrote more than 35,000 opinion pieces on a wide range of subjects. He prided himself on his egalitarian approach in giving equal voice to regular, working people and powerful political figures alike. He published essays from presidents and warehousemen, governors and housewives, convicts and clergy, business leaders and union members, the old and the young.

He was the founder and former president of the Association of Opinion Page Editors, which included the opinion page editors of most of the major newspapers in the United States and Canada. He was also a proud and active member of The Newspaper Guild.

After his official retirement in 1996, he regularly wrote columns on issues affecting senior citizens for the Inquirer's South Jersey edition.

Survivors include his wife, Mary, and son, Tom, both of Marlton, N.J.; and sisters Michaela Joyce of Albany, N.Y., Veronica Kavanaugh of Feura Bush, N.Y., and Florence Ladouceur of Albany, N.Y.

Relatives and friends are invited and may visit with Philip's family on Monday, June 27, 2016 from 4:00 to 7:00 pm in the McVeigh Funeral Home, 208 North Allen Street, Albany.

A Funeral Mass will be held on Tuesday, June 28, 2016 at 10:30am at Blessed Sacrament Church, 607 Central Ave, Albany.

The Rite of Interment will immediately follow the Mass at St. Agnes Cemetery, Menands.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be sent to www.Breastcancer.org, 120 East Lancaster Ave, Suite 201, Ardmore, PA 19003.

To leave Philip's family a message on their guestbook, obtain directions, light a candle or view other helpful services, please visit www.McVeighFuneralHome.com

Cemetery Details

St. Agnes Cemetery

48 Cemetery Ave
Menands, NY

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 27. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc.
208 N Allen St
Albany, NY 12206
(518) 489-0188
info@mcveighfuneralhome.com
<http://www.McveighFuneralHome.com>

Service

JUN 28. 10:30 AM (ET)

Blessed Sacrament Church
607 Central Ave (Father John Bradley Way)
Albany, NY 12206
(518) 489-0188
info@mcveighfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Philip H. Joyce*

October 08, 2023 at 09:24 PM



“ *WHAT WONDERFUL TIMES WE HAD IN BUFFALO. LOVED ALL THE PARTIES YOU AND MARY HAD IN TONAWANDA. MISS ALL OF OUR FRIENDS. GREG WOULD OF BEEN 90 YRS ON MAY 25TH AND HE WILL OF BEEN GONE 25YRS. JULY 23RD. LET'S REMEMBER ALL THE LOVE WE HAD FOR EACH OTHER. DOLORES FAHERTY-BECKER. LARGO FL.*

DOLORES FAHERTY-BECKER - June 01, 2017 at 04:25 PM



“ *My sincere condolences for your lost, may the words at Isaiah 25:8 bring you comfort during this time "He will swallow up death forever, And the Sovereign Lord Jehovah will wipe away the tears from all faces."*

Montana - July 12, 2016 at 06:05 PM



“ *Mary,
Martha and I were deeply saddened to read about Phil. He was a true gentleman and extremely generous with his time when I first joined the Editorial Board. I learned a lot from a real pro. I hope being with family and friends will offer some comfort. Please know that we are thinking of you.*

*Sincerely,
John Lubell*

John Lubell - June 28, 2016 at 07:38 PM

SD

“ Dear Thomas and Mary,

Phil and I had known each other for years when we both worked at The Philadelphia Inquirer. We became friendly though, after he retired from the editorial board and began writing his New Jersey senior's column. By then I was an Inquirer obit writer. Phil was a great source for info about New Jerseyans who died - several of whom he profiled. Other times he called to let me know an interesting Jersey person died. He was always so pleasant and had a quiet wit. Please accept my condolences.

Sally Downey

sally downey - June 27, 2016 at 01:24 PM

SM

“ Dear Mary,

I saw Phil's obit in the Inquirer. He had such a wonderful job. I always enjoyed talking with him about it. You and he were a great team. You are part of fond memories of St. Joan's. Please know I keep you in loving prayer.

Sister Sheila (Grade 8 - your neighbor on the second floor)/

Sister Sheila Murphy - June 27, 2016 at 01:23 PM

EB

“ Dear Mary and Tom:

I was so sorry to hear about Phil. He was my mentor and boon companion during my days at the Inquirer and our friendship was one of the great joys of my job. I've missed him over the years and will always remember his kindness, wit and consummate professionalism. My heart goes out to you and to your extended family.

Elsa Black - June 26, 2016 at 09:35 AM



“ Aunt Mary and Tom - We will all miss Uncle Phil... I will always remember him as a great listener, a man with a wonderful sense of humor and a guy who knew how to have fun and make fun happen! We share your loss, we'll miss him very much... until we meet again in Paradise
- Patty O'Toole



Pat Joytools - June 25, 2016 at 10:45 AM

MR

“ I'm sorry to hear about your loss. My prayers and thoughts are with you. Soothing words can be found at Isaiah 25:8 - "He will swallow up death forever, and the Sovereign Lord Jehovah will wipe away the tears from all faces." May these 1promises bring you a sense of hope during this difficult time.

Ms. Richardson - June 25, 2016 at 06:54 AM