



2024 Issue 3

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Sardi's Soirée is a Smashing Success!



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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 New!***Marilyn's Page**

For those of you who missed the Peacock North luncheon at Sardi's, you missed a really rocking good time. We were 125 or more and the ambience was loud (as always) and over the top warm and fun. Connie had us captivated with her tremendous humor and honesty. She announced her book, *A Memoir*, published by Hachette, and gave us a very tasty preview of what's to come. I look forward to it!

In light of Memorial Day being so close to printing and posting of this edition, I am giving up the rest of my page to a beautiful Facebook entry from my friend and NBC colleague, Colette Baptiste-Mombo, who honored the military service of her father, brothers and other family members.

We are also including Allison Davis's beautiful Facebook post in memory of her cousin, David, who died in Vietnam, as a closing to this edition. May we always remember and honor those who have served our country and in too many cases lost their lives.

Colette Baptiste's Memorial Day Thoughts

The military men and women who served honorably and protected the U.S. came from all walks of life; they were parents, children, grandparents, friends, neighbors, and coworkers, and were an important part of their communities and families. On Memorial Day we honor the fallen who served bravely, and their precious life lost along the way! Today is an important reckoning to those who never made it back home!

Words are not enough to express how thankful I am for my own father's courage, strength and dedication. I want to honor my family while they are still alive. Thank you, Dad (Earl Baptiste), who served in the Air Force's German Intelligence Section during the Korean War, followed by a tour in the U.K., where he met my mother, Dawn.

Right: My twin brothers: Barry attended the US Naval Academy in 1982 and is a commercial airline Captain for United Airlines; his twin brother, Craig, attended the US Air Force Academy, eventually graduated from Embry Riddle Aeronautical School and is a Captain for American Airlines.



Left:
My Great Uncles who both served in WWI as British Army Lance Corporals.

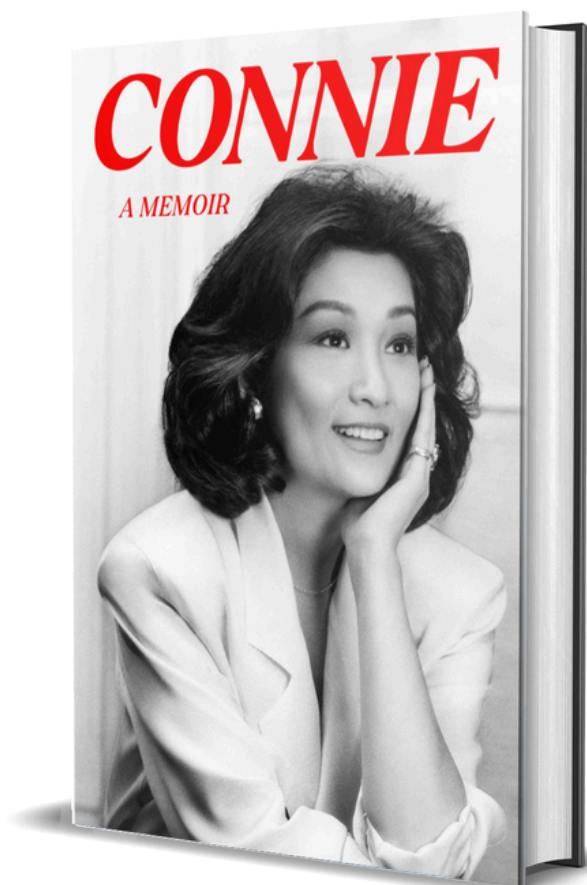
And let's not forget it was a difficult time for many Black men who were serving in the armed forces during the height of the 'Jim Crow' era. Public parks were forbidden for African Americans to enter, and theaters and restaurants were segregated. While my Dad was serving in his uniform, he was told to sit in the back of the bus and to eat in the back of the restaurant. These are the men I especially praise today. For their bravery and fortitude, as they never gave up while willing to sacrifice everything for future generations to come!

Love you Dad and thank you for your service and sacrifices for the USA.

What's Now!

Connie Chung's Memoir — Coming September 17, 2024

Legendary, trailblazing TV journalist Connie Chung's incredible life story
— in her own words.



In an industry dominated by white men, Connie Chung stood alone, the first and only Asian woman to break into the television news industry. This is her extraordinary story, told with incisive wit and remarkable candor.

Connie Chung is a pioneer. In 1969 at the age of 23, this once-shy daughter of Chinese parents took her first job at a local TV station in her hometown of Washington, D.C. and soon thereafter began working at CBS news as a correspondent. Profoundly influenced by her family's cultural traditions, yet growing up completely Americanized in the United States, Chung describes her career as an Asian woman in a white male-centered world. Overt sexism was a way of life, but Chung was tenacious in her pursuit of stories—battling rival reporters to secure scoops that ranged from interviewing Magic Johnson to covering the Watergate scandal—and quickly became a household name. She made history when she achieved her dream of being the first woman to co-anchor the *CBS Evening News* and the first Asian to anchor any news program in the U.S.

Chung pulls no punches as she provides a behind-the-scenes tour of her singular life. From showdowns with powerful men in and out of the newsroom to the stories behind some of her career-defining reporting and the unwavering support of her husband, Maury Povich, nothing is off-limits—good, bad, or ugly. So be sure to tune in for an irreverent and inspiring exclusive: this is CONNIE like you've never seen her before.

To be published by Grand Central Publishing, an imprint of Hachette Book Group, on September 17, 2024.



To preorder Connie's memoir, scan the QR code with your phone's camera or visit:
<https://www.hachettebookgroup.com/titles/connie-chung/connie/9781538766989/>

Peacock Family

Cal Siemer's Journey from NBC to Las Vegas

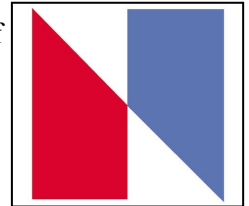
Every now and again we like to follow up on former NBC colleagues to see where they have landed. Cal Siemer's interesting story fits the bill.



On August 9, 1976, I entered the RCA Building for the first time and took the elevator to the eighth floor. I had been hired as a Researcher in the News Film Library and also to operate and maintain the department's new hard disk drive computer combined with a tape drive backup. In a previous job, I had learned how to program, operate, and maintain IBM mainframe computers such as the IBM 360 and IBM 370, and the transition to the new platter disk computer was easy for me.



My new job came with a desk in an open office space next to Studio 8H, which was gearing up to host the second season of a new show then called "Saturday Night" (it was later re-named "Saturday Night Live" in March 1977). As much as I enjoyed my work for the News Film Library, I wanted to work in the production end of television. I applied for a Vacation Relief job in the Video Tape Library in 1978 but was rejected because the manager told me I was "overqualified." Undaunted, I reapplied in 1979 and persuaded the manager to hire me this time because, as I told him, being "overqualified" meant I would be an over achiever. He agreed, fortunately.

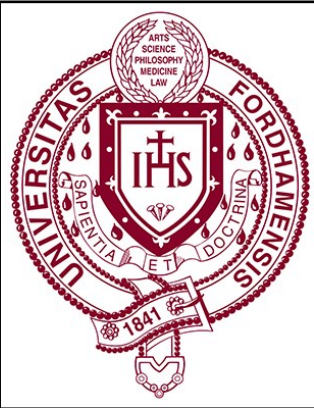


My new job was represented by NABET and I joined the union, although I had little interest in its politics. However, my fellow employees approached me about becoming the department's shop steward in 1980. At first, I resisted, but later consented to having my name be put up for election that year. To my surprise, I easily won the election and began my career in NABET politics. That next year, I transferred to the On-Air Department and eventually worked in Switching Central. Again, my colleagues suggested to me in 1981 that I should run for an Executive Board seat in Video Tape against a venerable union leader, Bob Rizzo. I agreed to the nomination and in an upset, I won the election. Not long after, I was introduced to John Clark who was then the Grievance Chair of NABET. John was one of the most brilliant people I met at NBC and I was impressed by his deft and adroit mind. Due to him, I became more deeply involved in NABET's affairs.

In 1983, I was elected Secretary-Treasurer, and then John, who had been elected Vice President in the same election, appointed me as Grievance Chair, a full-time position with the union. In that role, I learned much from dealing with NBC's Labor Relations Department, especially through my interactions with David Heiser, David Obel, and Irv Brand. No matter how clever I thought I was, they always seemed to be one step ahead most times and I wanted to catch up. In 1986, I was elected to be Vice President and served under John Clark, who was elected President that same year. After the strike in 1987, the idea grew in me that I should go to law school if I wanted to be able to deal with the NBC Labor Relations team on more equal terms. Accordingly, I took the LSAT and applied to law school, but because of my day job, I knew I would need to attend a school with an evening program. The best school for that requirement was Fordham Law School at Lincoln Center and I was fortunate to be accepted into the school's evening program in 1990.



I was quite naïve as to what law school would entail but I immersed myself as much as I could in the process. Law schools employ the Socratic Method as their teaching philosophy, and it threw me off balance. I could never figure out the answer, but I had a lot of questions, which I did not realize was the whole point of the teaching method.



At the end of my first year, I was uncertain how I had done on my final exams because I raised more questions than answers in my responses. To relieve the stress, that summer I went to Montreal for a vacation with my family. While we were in Canada, to my surprise, my sister, who was bringing in the mail and watching our house, told me that I had a message on our answering machine from the dean of Finance at Fordham. I could not imagine why he would want to speak with me, but I called him. Unexpectedly, he told me that I had finished number one in the first-year class and as a result, the school wanted to offer me a scholarship. He explained that the school was granting me this benefit to enable me to shift to the day division and to have the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities such as Moot Court and Law Review. I did not understand what those programs were, but I gladly accepted the scholarship. Because of my grades, I was selected for Law Review. Thereafter, in my second year, I was elected to the role of Editor-in-Chief of the Law Review, the highest honor a law school can bestow on a student.

I knew I could not continue my role with the union because my new duties would be all consuming. Coincidentally, that same year, NBC was offering voluntary buyouts to NABET members. I applied for one but was rejected by Labor Relations because of my position in the union. However, Ed Scanlon, NBC's Executive Vice President of Employee Relations, reversed that decision and I received the buyout. I owe a lot to Ed beyond this decision and that is another whole story. (Ed recently passed away on March 17, 2024, one day shy of his 90th birthday). With the scholarship, the buyout, and savings, I was able to go to law school full time, serve as Editor-in-Chief of Law Review, and also support my family.

The dean of my law school, John Feerick, had been a partner at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, a powerhouse international law firm. I took a tutorial with Dean Feerick on Constitutional Law, his specialty. Unbeknownst to me, Dean Ferrick contacted his former partners at Skadden and highly recommended me to them. As a result, Skadden recruited me and I joined the firm in 1993 in its Labor & Employment Department. During the next 10 years, through my exposure to remarkably gifted legal talent at Skadden, I grew in my understanding and practice of the law. In 1999, Skadden asked me to transfer to its new office in Palo Alto to be part of the firm's response to the dot com boom. I accepted the transfer and relocated. My time in Palo Alto was well spent as I learned much about business formation and governance during the heyday of the dot com boom. The model executive employment agreements I created were included and credited in *Start-Up & Emerging Companies: Planning, Financing & Operating Successful Business*, a publication of Law Journal Press.



Subsequently, in 2003, I was recruited to join the Hearst Corporation as a Senior Counsel for Labor and Employment. Among its many holdings, Hearst has 27 television stations across the United States from Honolulu to Boston. I worked with them on employment and labor matters, bringing back memories of my days at NBC. Thereafter, in 2012, I was approached by Las Vegas Sands Corp. to join its Legal Department at The Venetian Resort in Las Vegas. I accepted the job offer and entered the fascinating world of casinos. In addition to The Venetian Resort, Sands owns and operates casinos in Singapore and Macao and maintains offices in Hong Kong. In 2016, I became the Senior Vice President for Global Human Resources, a role that necessitated visits to Hong Kong, Marina Bay Sands (a grand casino resort which was featured in the movie "Crazy Rich Asians"), Macao and China. I later returned to purely legal duties as the Deputy Global General Counsel for Sands. Sands sold its Las Vegas holdings and the sale closed in February 2022. I was offered the opportunity to stay with The Venetian Resort, and I opted to do so. Currently, I am the Chief Legal Officer of The Venetian Resort Las Vegas. My duties are varied, but I enjoy most handling entertainment contracts and bookings. It always reminds me of my days at NBC and the foundation my time there gave me to be where I am today. I am eternally grateful to the friends I made at NBC and the colleagues I worked with. Whether they know it or not, they have all contributed to my development and success, and I am indebted to them.



Our future is always rooted in our past.

**April 20, 2024 Spring Luncheon Photos
by Barbara Lassen
and [PS] Paul Scrabo, [RS] Rick Stern, [PC] Peggy Chane,
[JS] Joel Spector**



**Above, welcoming our guests are Katherine Powers, John Fider, Marilyn Altman and Joel Spector.
Below, Katherine and Doug Nelson at the check-in table.**





John Fritsche



Liz & Tom Keenan



Frank Lazzaro, Lois Borth, Rita Sultana



George Ann Muller & Paul Scrabo



Steve Gonzalez & Tammy Brainin



Randy Nelson & Steve Kent



Sue Noseworthy, Terri & John Pinto, Mike Noseworthy



John Gonzalez, John Gilmartin, Steve Cimino, Rick Stern



Peter & Maureen Mulvaney Stamm



Susan Kramer, Joyce Hurley



Peggy Chane, Rhonda Hansome



Rita Sultana, Marilyn Altman [PS]



Kristin & John Libretto, Steve Singer



John Fritsche, Mary Alice O'Rourke, Don Nash



Doug Nelson, Katherine Powers, Brian Prentke



Terry Tousey, Bob Natoli



Joannie Kaplan, Mary Alice O'Rourke



Nancy Smith, Martin Fletcher



Kathy Babiak, Susann Thomas, Cathy Donahoe [PS]



Kris Libretto, Carla Engelman, Stacey Gilmartin, Ginny Seipt



Bob Van Ry [PS]



Gil Muro [PS]



Liz Keenan, David Naggjar, Karen Curry, Tom Keenan



Above Left: John Fider and Joel Spector



Above: Right Rick and Jeanne Fox

Below Left: George Smith, Marilyn Altman



Below Right: Rita Sultana, Claudette Blackwood



Above: George Ann Muller, Pam Butler, John Gilmartin, Tab Butler

Below Left: Mary Alice O'Rourke, Tony Gannon, Karen Curry

Below Right: Steve Singer, Steve Cimino





Above: Lauren Fairbanks, Inara DeLeon, Susan Kramer

Below: Ellen Coin, Jeanette Hektoen, David Heiser





Above Left: Bonnie Optekman

Above Right: Susan Drury, Carole Wendt

Below Left: Peggy Chane, Annette Shandalow-Hassell

Below Right: Francine Winiker, Rick Stern







Maria Pagano



Jerry & Carrie Kirshman Podczaski



John Fritsche, Joe Torelli, Karen Curry [PS]



Joe Alicastro, John Fider



Brian Wickham, Ann Taylor



Jim Bertini



Steve Alper, Tony Gannon, David Naggjar



Terry Tousey, Joyce Hurley, Susann Thomas [PS]



Martin Slota, Abby & Harvey Marshal, Peter Sullivan, Fran Reiners



Above: Donna McCarthy, Susan Kramer, Fran Cimino, Joe Bonanno [PS]

Below: Mark and Bob Van Ry, Prince





Peggy Chane, John & Sandy Gonzalez



Kathy Babiak, Susan Kramer, Rob Kaplan



Bob Natoli, Mike Sarno



Christine Huneke



Abby Marks, Terry Tousey



Steve Gonzalez, Frank Radano, Howard Hirsch



Peter Sullivan, Ed Cohen



Don Critchfield, Joe Torelli





Jeremy Wagner, our Maître d'



[PS]





Post-Luncheon at Sardi's 2nd Floor Bar [JS]



"After Party" at Playwrights Tavern [RS]

*What's Now!***Joe Michaels on High Point University's New TV Studio for Broadcast and VR**

Some of our readers might remember that I was at NBC for over 44 years and enjoyed a very long run at NBC Sports and on the Today show. I have been a Professor of the Practice of Media Production at High Point University in North Carolina for nine years and have never been more excited than about the new studio we've assembled for classes and student projects.

This studio is the result of a collaborative effort among the professors in the Media Production Major to build a facility that supports both traditional broadcasting and virtual and augmented reality. This allows students hands-on experience with the latest technology and integrates various media techniques, ensuring they are well-prepared for the industry's future.



A standout feature is a 24-foot by 12-foot 4K video wall, which will enhance broadcast productions and help students develop skills in virtual and augmented film production. The studio is equipped with four 4K Panasonic broadcast cameras and a Red cinema camera for VR. The control room includes Ross switchers and graphic systems, Yamaha audio, video servers, and Cue Script prompters.

The new TV studio is more than just a facility; it's a gateway to the future of media production, where students can explore and master the art of storytelling through both conventional broadcasting and cutting-edge virtual realities. I am proud to be part of this transformative journey at HPU, equipping the next generation of media professionals with the skills and experience they need to succeed.



What's Now!

Bob Riggio Returns to SUNY Brockport for College Radio Hall of Fame

It all started back in August of 1976. My parents dropped me off at SUNY Brockport in upstate NY to begin my college journey. After settling into my dorm room and meeting my roommates I set out to find the college radio station, WBSU 600AM. The first person I met there was to become one of the most influential people in my life. Mitch Cohen, from Brooklyn, NY was two years older than me and was the station's very well-respected Sports Director.

Thus began a mentorship and friendship that's lasted to this day. Under his guidance, I rose up the leadership ladder to become the Music Director and then Director of Programming within three years. I graduated with a BS in Communications in 1980 and went on to a radio/TV career at NBC armed with the knowledge and skills I gained at WBSU. Mitch had a huge hand in my early development.

Nearly 40 years later I learned that WBSU was establishing a Hall of Fame and that I and a number of other people who went on to have successful careers in media were to be recognized and inducted. I was extremely grateful and honored to be accepted into that club in 2020. My group included Ryan Nobles of NBC News as well as other NY and national notables. I attended the ceremony in 2022, after a late start due to COVID, and Mitch was there to proudly usher me in. I hoped that I would someday return the favor.

I always wondered why Mitch was not previously inducted. For many years I, amongst others, pushed for him to get nominated. He had left such an indelible impression on many students, some of whom went on to great careers. Maybe it was because his own radio career fizzled out very soon after it started. A Brooklyn guy in the Deep South with *that* accent didn't exactly catch on. So back to NYC he came and began a career in the fur business, leaving his radio career in the rear-view window.

Mitch finally joined the club in April of 2024 and many of us ventured up to Brockport to attend the festive occasion and applaud our guy, Mitch Cohen. The wait was over. A good man received his well-deserved reward.



Bob in one of the new WBSU Control Rooms



**(L) Bob with Mitch at the Hall of Fame Wall.
(R) Mitch with his award. [Photo © Christian Bauder]**

Peacock Family

Bill Taylor Celebration Event at the Rubin Museum on April 18th.
Ed. Note: The Museum kindly donated the facilities, technical services and catering.



Above, speaking at the event: Joel Spector, Prisane, Laurie Palladino, Charles Moore, Bob Palladino and Gil Muro.

Below, some of the 40 people at the reception: Lauren Fairbanks, Joel, Jason Smith [Event Technical Director], Erika Murata [Event Technician], one of two floral arrangements from NBC, Glenn Corbett, Steve Cimino, Prisane, Ezra Matychak, Don Roy King, Paul Scrabo, Fred Zeller, George Ann Muller and Ray Nassr.



Peacock History

Chuck Scarborough Celebrates 50 years at NBC New York

With a distinct voice any longtime New Yorker can recognize, Chuck Scarborough is a local legend and news veteran marking his 50th anniversary reporting for the National Broadcasting Company. Scarborough is a celebrated journalist receiving accolades from various organizations, such as the Associated Press, New York Press Club, Working Press Association and New York State Broadcasters Association. Throughout his career, Scarborough has won 36 local Emmy awards and a "Governor's Award," a distinguished honor by the New York Chapter of Television Arts & Sciences for his impact on the media industry.

A Pittsburgh native, he graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi and, with a love for aviation, entered the U.S. Air Force before jumping into journalism. His father was a highly decorated B-17 pilot in World War II. Scarborough holds a commercial pilot license and has covered a variety of aeronautic stories, including the Thunderbirds and Blue Angels.

He began his television career in Mississippi at WLOX-TV before moving on to WAGA-TV in Atlanta, then to WNAC-TV in Boston. He joined WNBC-TV in March 1974 as a lead anchor for what was, at the time, the new 5:00 p.m. NewsCenter 4 broadcast. Scarborough has covered major New York stories like the 1977 "Night of Terror" blackout, the September 11, 2001, terror attacks and the U.S. epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

Jim Hartz, Jack Cafferty, John Hambrick, Pat Harper, Dawn Fratangelo, Sibila Vargas, Lynda Baquero and Natalie Pasquarella are a few of the co-anchors that Scarborough has worked with over the years, but one partner remains unparalleled when it comes to creating the perfect pair. Former WNBC-TV anchor Sue Simmons joined Scarborough in 1980 for the 11:00 P.M. newscast, and they shared the anchor desk for 32 years — making this dynamic duo the longest-running anchor team in the history of New York City television news.

Off the air, Scarborough supports non-profit organizations involved with animal welfare, the environment, arts and education. He was even the voice for the past New York Cares Coat Drive PSA, the "Shivering Liberty Statue."

Scarborough resides in Stamford, Conn., and is married to Ellen Ward Scarborough. He has two children, Chad and Elizabeth. In a moment of self-reflection, Scarborough notes to News 4 that he has been, "the beneficiary of a small army of brilliant broadcast journalists on both sides of the camera." While he shares his adoring admiration and respect for his colleagues, he makes a special point to thank the tri-state audience for their utmost loyalty and trust for half a century.

--By Linda Gaudino, ©NBC, March 25, 2024



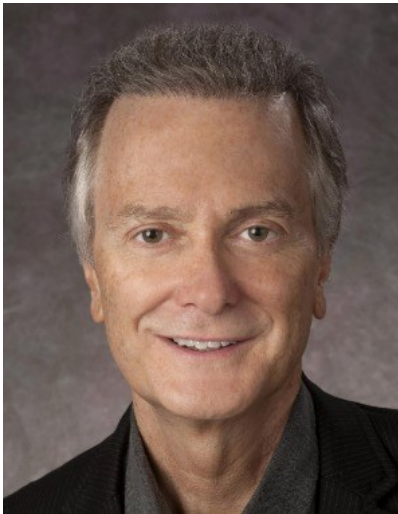
Chuck and Ellen at the 50th Anniversary Celebration



gettyimages
Credit: NBC NewsWire

Chuck Scarborough, Carl B. Stokes, Betty Furness, Dick Schaap, Norma Quarles, Jim Van Sickle, Pia Lindstrom, Tim Ryan, Jim Hartz during a press preview for the new set on April 22, 1974

(Photo by: NBCU Photo Bank/ NBCUniversal via Getty Images)

Tributes to Silent Microphones
Jerry Foley


Jerry Foley, who served as director of “The Late Show with David Letterman” from 1995 until the end of its run — died March 10 at the Albany Medical Center in Albany, N.Y. A family friend said he died following a ski accident in Vermont. He was 68.

Foley, who was the brother of director James Foley, directed nearly 4,000 hours of late-night television, including all 72 episodes of “Live on Letterman,” episodes of “The View,” and Broadway segments for “Good Morning America.” He also produced and directed the “America Salutes You” benefit concert.

The DGA remembered him on X, writing “The Guild mourns the passing of Director Jerry Foley, whose 25 years on Late Show w/ David Letterman produced nearly 4,000 hours of iconic late-night TV. His exceptional directing earned him 9 DGA Award noms & 24 Emmy nods.”

Foley was the executive producer and director of the “Live on Letterman” concert series before it ended in 2015, a position he held after being promoted from the series’ supervising producer in May 2003. Throughout his run, Foley directed concerts featuring an array of talent — including The Black Keys, The Killers, Adele, Phoenix, Taylor Swift and Tim McGraw.

“Jerry was the beating heartbeat of the ‘Late Show with David Letterman’ and directed some of the most iconic moments in music and TV history, Kim Reynolds, a producer who worked closely with Fowley, said in a statement. “He was the north star for so many people in this industry and was known for his incredible humor, quick wit and sarcasm that went unmatched.”

With a keen adoration of theatre and Broadway, Foley also produced and directed over 40 Broadway performances for “The Late Show:” including “Wicked,” “Pippin,” “The Adams Family,” “Hedwig and the Angry Inch,” “Hair,” “Young Frankenstein” and Cinderella. He was the executive producer and director of “CBS News: 50 Years Later, Civil Rights,” “The Beatles 50 Years Later: How CBS is Remembering the Fab Four” and directed the NBC prime-time special “Tony Bennett Celebrates 90: The Best Is Yet to Come.”

Foley was feted with many accolades throughout his career. He was nominated for nine Directors Guild of America Awards and more than 20 Emmys — a record for a single person working on a variety series.

A lifelong New Yorker, Foley was born in 1955 and raised in Staten Island. The USC graduate began his career in broadcasting as a cameraman before being hired by NBC in 1980 as a graphics technician. In 1990, he became the technical director of NBC’s Late Night with David Letterman. He eventually followed the legendary funnyman to CBS’ rendition of the show, replacing Hal Gurnee, the show’s longtime Director, in 1995 and remaining with the show until its conclusion in May 2015.

He is survived by siblings Jo Ann, Kevin, James and Eileen, his son Quinn (Antea) and his wife, Ann Marie.

By Diego Ramos Bechara, © Variety, March 12, 2024



Jerry with Hal Gurnee in NBC 6A Control Room

Colleagues Remember Jerry

Joel Spector

Always a classy guy, with a dry sense of humor. He was the New York control room TD for one of the "Midnight Mass from the Vatican" broadcasts. Our commentator in Rome was Archbishop Foley, so I introduced them to each other via the IFB. They got a real kick out of that. From then on I referred to Jerry as "Your Foleyness!" So proud of his later work with Tony Bennett. RIP, Sir.

Gilbert Muro

Couple of weeks ago I had dinner with Jerry Foley, and other wonderful colleagues, and afterwards I drove him home! He passed over the weekend, apparently from a skiing accident! I am very sad and will miss him!

Met Jerry in the late 80's at NBC and we were staff Technical Directors. Letterman decided to move his *Late Night* show to CBS and Jerry was offered a job with the show. He told me he was nervous about giving up his NBC staff job and moving to another company. He asked my advice, as I had given up a staff job at ABC and moved to NBC. I recommended he take the new job and view it as a golden opportunity. He has thanked me several times in the last 25 years as he eventually got promoted to Director, and eventually Supervising Producer.

Had the privilege on two occasions to make a pilgrimage to the incredible Sullivan Theater, home to the CBS studio production of David Letterman's *Late Show* from 1993 - 2015. During the last week of production, he invited me to sit in the control room to observe the production of the show. I had to pinch myself to see if it was not a dream as I also got to stand on stage where the Beatles preformed, and look out at the audience before recording began that day. He also gave me a private tour of the Sullivan Theater. God bless Jerry for his generosity.

Recently, the Technical Director of the *Colbert Show*, Karen Obel, a good friend, invited me to sit in and observe production of that show! Aren't I lucky! Gives me something to brag about! Sorry for that!

Praying for his family as I know they will miss him. Suddenly losing a loved one is very difficult and hard!

Maureen Mulvaney Stamm

A true gentleman. Sorry for your loss, and the loss to those of us who knew and worked with him.

Tony Franqueira III

I met Jerry on the overnight shift of the *Today Show* in the early 80's. He was fantastic, taught me the switcher and everything else that had to do with graphics playback. Then he was off to greener pastures at *Late Night*. More recently I'd catch up with him on the train platform.

Jerry had a summer home in upstate NY near me and would take my train up on Friday nights for the weekend. A class act and always a pleasure. I should have taken him up on that same offer Gil did. Rest in peace my friend.

Bryan D. Keen

I introduced Jerry to Hal Gurney when Jerry was doing WNBC news. I had worked with Hal on *David Frost* before I came to NBC. Will miss him. Our thoughts are with his family.

George Mendez

Gilbert Muro thank you for sharing such personal experiences with Jerry. The both of you are from the best cut of TDs NBC has had, of course with others. However, Jerry had an easy going personality yet as a Director very exacting. He certainly will be missed, God bless him.

*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Bill McLoughlin**

We are saddened to report that after almost a year of fighting cancer, Bill McLoughlin lost his battle last night, May 13th. He was 65.

William Gerard McLoughlin led the CNN NY Studio Operations team for more than 20 years and was a mentor, friend, teacher, and leader to hundreds of CNNers. He covered numerous elections, conventions, and special events. He played an integral role in moving CNN from 5 Penn Plaza to Time Warner Center, and then again to Hudson Yards. His work and leadership touched CNN across every city, department, and network, and helped shape the production vision of CNN for the past two decades. And prior to CNN, he had a long career at NBC – working on *Dateline*, the *Today Show*, and other prestigious productions.

Bill loved to share his knowledge and, of course, the credit for all the amazing achievements he and his team accomplished. He treated everyone, and all productions, equally, whether big or small. He had immense pride in his work, in CNN, and in journalism. But the biggest pride of his life was his family -- being a husband to Linda, father to Caitlin and Megan, and grandfather to two, with the second arriving just last week.

Bill was a well-liked and widely popular leader, someone you always wanted in your corner. He and his unflagging good humor will be missed by all.

By Ken Jautz and John Davies, © CNN

A Memorial Service was held on May 17th at Feeney Funeral Home, Ridgewood, NJ.

In lieu of flowers the family would appreciate a donation in William's memory to either the Alzheimer's Association (www.alz.org) or the American Cancer Society.



*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Gigi Harold**

Genevieve “Gigi” Harold entered her eternal rest on May 5, 2024 at the age of 89. Gigi is predeceased by her parents, John and Gertrude, her brother, Richard and her best friend, Jack McNamara. She is lovingly remembered by Jack’s nieces, Catherine Wilkins and Patricia (Steven) Macias and Jack’s great-nephews Conor and Vincent Macias.

Gigi was born and raised in Westchester County, New York. As a young woman, she joined the Civil Air Patrol and earned her pilot’s license. Later, she attended Lasell College in Newtown, Massachusetts, and enthusiastically participated in many alumni gatherings after graduation.

Gigi enjoyed a long career with NBC Entertainment where she worked as an Administrative Assistant to several C-suite executives across multiple divisions. Gigi was an accomplished tennis player and extraordinary skier. She enjoyed numerous trips to the American Rockies, Vermont, Eastern Canada and Europe.

Gigi will forever be remembered for her elegance, kindness and generosity. She was a loyal and loving friend to all who knew her.

To honor Gigi’s life family and friends gathered on May 7th at Coxe & Graziano Funeral Home in Mamaroneck. A Funeral Mass was held on May 8th, at Sacred Heart RC Church in Hartsdale, followed by interment at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery.

Should friends desire, memorial contributions may be sent to Calvary Hospital in Gigi’s name.

Posted by Coxe & Graziano Funeral Home

**Rick Kelley, Jr Remembers Gigi**

Devastated to learn of the passing of a tremendous life-long family friend. I learned late last night that Gigi Harold entered eternal life this past Sunday. She and my Dad worked together in the NYC Casting Dept. of NBC TV for many years before everything moved out West.

Living nearby in Hartsdale, Gigi was a regular visitor to the house and remained a loyal and wonderful friend to both of my parents - long after both she and Dad retired from the network. She was a remarkably smart, fun and enthusiastic & incredibly lovely individual.

I am stunned to learn of the truly amazing life she led (she was even was a pilot - who knew?!?). She and I remained in contact after both Dad and Mom passed - and spoke on the phone several times a year just to stay in touch. Even the Covid situation could not separate us. I always looked forward to our Christmas calls - an annual tradition after Mom & Dad were gone. She was always such a welcome burst of friendly & enthusiastic energy and embraced life to the fullest.

She will surely be missed by the many friends and associates she amassed over the years. For me, it's like losing another family member. We loved her as one of our own. Rest in Peace, Gigi - and - as they say - Thanks for the many years of the many wonderful memories you always were ready to share with us.

**Rick Sr and Gigi 2004**

Tributes to Silent Microphones

Betty Cole Dukert Remembered by Betsy Fischer Martin



Betty Cole Dukert was the embodiment of class, grit and grace. Already a legend in television, she was nearing the end of her remarkable 41-year career at “Meet the Press” just as I was starting out as a college intern. We would end up working together for six years during which she was a mentor and a guiding force during a period of big changes on the longest-running

A pioneer for women in television, she started working in TV news in the early 1950’s for WRC, the local NBC station in Washington, as a secretary and as a temporary weekend production assistant for the network. In 1956 she was hired as an associate producer to co-creator and producer/questioner Lawrence E. Spivak of Meet the Press. Spivak was a tough and demanding boss and expected an around-the-clock work ethic to match his own. He offered her the job on the condition that she be paid the same paltry amount she was making in local news - to prove to him that she actually wanted the position not just the salary increase. Eventually, she was promoted to producer of the program and presumably received a well-deserved raise.

Betty was Spivak’s right hand until his retirement as moderator in 1975. She stayed on as producer, working alongside the next six moderators: Bill Monroe, Roger Mudd, Marvin Kalb, Chris Wallace, Garrick Utley, and Tim Russert. She retired with the title of executive producer in 1997 after Meet the Press celebrated its 50th anniversary on the air. Betty had been with the program for almost all of the history-making interviews and she remembered most of them in

great detail — not just what was said on the air but the behind-the-scenes negotiations and any corresponding drama. Fidel Castro, John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King Jr, Robert Frost, Golda Meir, Eleanor Roosevelt — nearly every important political figure in modern history. After the program, each guest received a handwritten thank you note along with a professionally printed copy of the transcript from Betty in the mail.

A hallmark of the program dating back to the days of Lawrence Spivak was a strict adherence to political nonpartisanship on the air. Spivak always said he viewed it as his mission to learn as much as possible about the guest and then take the other side no matter the political party. Betty felt strongly about this as well. She considered herself an independent and never discussed her personal political opinions in the office.

She worked long hours in the office, sometimes waiting until late at night for a return call from a congressional office or lawmaker. This was an era long before cell phones or even voicemail. Any work on our rudimentary computer system had to be done at the office — there was just no such thing as “working from home.” Afraid to miss a call after hours at home, she employed an old-school home answering service to take messages and let callers know when she might return. Even after she retired, she kept that answering service for years after the advent of answering machines. She often referred to Spivak as a creature of habit, but I think she was too.

A true lady, Betty was incredibly caring and generous. We stayed in close touch and enjoyed lunches at the Cosmos Club (her favorite) and, later, brunches at her retirement community dining room. She loved her affiliation with the International Women’s Forum and made sure to recommend me for membership when I became the executive producer.

Every Christmas until she stopped driving, she would hand deliver a red tin of homemade Chex mix to the Meet the Press office staff and promise a refill the following year only if the prized tin was returned safely to her. She was always perfectly put together for any occasion.

She died peacefully at her apartment in Bethesda, Maryland on March 16th, just two months shy of turning 97. The word “trailblazer” is thrown around a lot these days but in the case of Betty Cole Dukert, it rings true. She graduated from the University of Missouri journalism school in 1949, made her way alone to Washington, DC to enter the exciting new world of television news and rose to the top in a field dominated by men in front of and behind the camera. She did it with courage and determination but always with class and kindness. Meet the Press has been on the air for almost 77 years and there is no doubt that Betty Cole Dukert deserves a lot of the credit for helping it remain the longest-running television show in the world.

(Betsy Fischer Martin was Executive Producer of Meet the Press from 2002 to 2013) [This article has been edited]

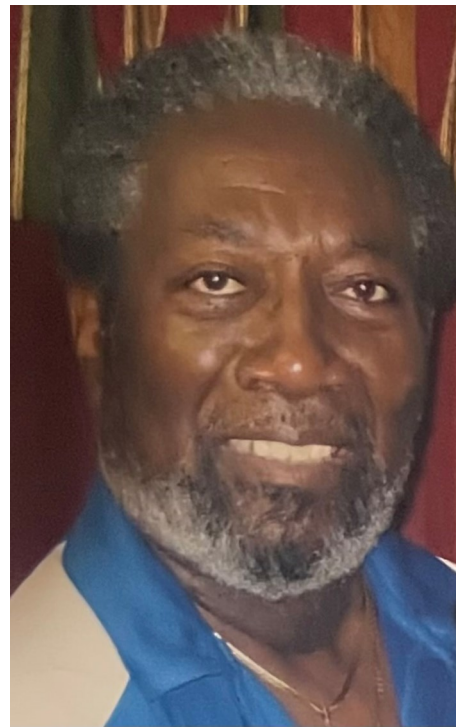
*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Mack “Maxx” Collins**

Mack A. Collins, was born on January 29, 1945 in Magee, Mississippi to the late Mr. Leotha C. Collins and Janell Collins. Mack was affectionately known as “Maxx” to his family and friends. Maxx and Juanita met at Bedford Bowl in Brooklyn NY, and after many years of dating they married in 2016.

Maxx came to New York at an early age where he continued his education. He held various odd jobs before landing a job at NBC Studios. Maxx began at a low entry level and moved quickly to the top of his field. This was because whenever new equipment was being installed Maxx would constantly watch and ask questions, eventually he would learn how to expertly operate the new equipment. Due to his hard work and knowledge of these machines Maxx was later promoted to Video Tape Engineer Group 7 Supervisor where he retired in 2001.

Maxx accepted Christ at a later age and joined Berean Baptist Church in Brooklyn, NY and became an active member. Maxx was very outgoing, willing to help anyone in need, and he had a great personality. Maxx was a sports enthusiast. He was an outstanding football and softball player in High School. He enjoyed watching the NY Jets, NY Mets and NY Knicks. He loved traveling, getting together with family and friends and having a good time.

Maxx enjoyed the sport of bowling, it enabled him to travel all around the country. While bowling at Bedford Bowl he found his extended (bowling) family. Maxx won various leagues and tournaments, and he bowled numerous perfect scores of 300. Maxx was a member of the UBA bowling club. He also coached and mentored our youth bowlers to whom he was known as “Daddy Maxx”.



On Friday, March 22, 2024 while at Methodist Hospital, Maxx was called home and at his side was his wife, Juanita, and sister-in-law Betty Fredrick.

Maxx was preceded in death by his parents, sisters: Jane Carol Kirk, Alberta Dixon and brother Bedell Collins. He leaves to cherish his memory, his wife, Juanita, son: Richard Collins (Patrenia), stepsons: Derek R. Fredrick, Jason J. Johnson, stepdaughters: Freida Rowe (Willie), Sheila Ann Johnson-Pilgrim, siblings: Johnny Collins, Joe Collins, Eddie Collins, Jerry Collins, Grayling Collins grandchildren: Taraki L. Collins, Tenesia L. Collins, Trinique L. Collins, Destiny N. Fredrick, great grandson: Jacquelyn Durr, and a host of nieces, nephews, other family members and friends

Condolences may be sent to:
Juanita Collins
590 Flatbush Ave
5L, Brooklyn, NY 11225

*Tributes to Silent Microphones***George Newell**

George M. Newell, Jr, a longtime musician, writer, bandleader, and television associate director and producer, passed away at his home in Morris Plains, NJ. He was 90.

George grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and became a gifted percussionist & pianist. In what became his greatest family legacy, he graduated from Valley Forge Military Academy & Junior College, Classes of '51 & '53JC, and was a drummer in the famed Regimental Band. He then attended the Ohio State University, and played a six-week summer tour of military bases across Germany. Graduating in 1955, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Signal Corps as a Motion Picture & Television Director.

Following his military service, he was among the first Technical & Floor Directors during the first years of the Mister Rogers Neighborhood children's television show at WQED in Pittsburgh, before moving on in 1959 to a 23-year career at NBC-TV in New York. While at NBC, he was the network associate director for the funerals of JFK & RFK, President Eisenhower, and more than 30 other notable events, plus the regular morning network lineups of Phil Donahue and the Today show.

In 1981, along with a few Army & television buddies, George helped pioneer the independent WFTS-TV 28 in Tampa, an original forerunner to family-friendly & nostalgic television programming, where he was the founding Station Manager.

George retired from broadcasting in 1986 to pursue his favorite pastime of music writing and performing on drums & piano. He formed the George Newell Orchestra and later his Big Band, and jazz groups both large and small, performing jazz and a flavored modern swing at civic & private events across the tri-state area. Sadly, he said their most notable appearance turned out to be the last actual Big Band to perform at Windows on the World just months prior to 9/11.

George was preceded in passing by his parents George M. Newell, Sr., Captain, US Army, WWII, and Miriam (nee Henderson) Newell, sister Penny Stevenson, and niece Kerry Lee Knox Westerwick.

He is survived by his only child Scott Keith Newell, (VFMA&JC Classes of '88 Regimental Band & '92JC), and grandchildren Austin, Marissa, Aidan (VFMA Regimental Band 2018-2019), Summer and Chase, all of South Carolina, as well as nieces Lisa Knox Dorman & Pam England and their families.

George passed peacefully at his home with his longtime best friend and co-performer & singer Joanie Murphy, son Scott, longtime caregiver Camille and his daughter-in-law Brittany at his side.

A memorial service and celebration of his life were held in New Jersey on May 31st.

In lieu of flowers, George would have loved a contribution to the Medenbach Memorial Foundation (www.MedenbachFoundation.org), church or youth music charity of your choice.

(Updated from material originally published by The Star-Ledger from Nov. 9 to Nov. 11, 2023.)

*Gray Matters***GE Completes the Spinoffs
by Bill Freeda****GE VERNOVA****GE Aerospace****GE HealthCare**

As of April 2, 2024 the General Electric Company has spun off into three separate companies:

GE Aerospace (GE), which will retain the GE name, stock symbol, and the familiar logo.

GE Healthcare (GEHC), and GE Vernova (GEV), which is the power and energy company.

I suggest you check with your financial planner to find out how many shares you have in each company. My understanding is that beginning April 2, 2024 shareowners will receive one share for each share of GE Verona stock for each share of GE stock you currently own.

I have been getting questions regarding the \$1,000 per person eligible GE retirees have been receiving for their healthcare costs. Remember, each of these companies are now independent corporations, with their own Boards of Directors. Those Boards of Directors will determine independently if the RRA payments will continue. So far these payments will continue through 2024. There is no commitment past 2024.

Allison Davis' Memorial Day Thoughts



My first cousin David was quite the reluctant soldier. In fact, he was drafted while attending college; plucked with thousands of others draftees whose lives were interrupted by the Vietnam War. David tried to find a way out as he was against the conflict but his life had already been disrupted. His dad, my uncle, died suddenly and his stepmother didn't want him in the home, so he moved in with our other uncle and his wife who had been childless.

My brothers and I loved David. Though much older than us, he was the cool cousin. He challenged us to think beyond our suburban upbringing. He exposed us to great books, jazz and abstract art. My younger brother and I listened but much of it was above our heads as we were well over a decade younger than David. However, it was a different story for my older brother. David was his hero.

While in college, David was a lifeguard at Rockaway beach. We'd go out to that beach to see him as he sat attentively in his high perch. I would play in the sand below him as I wasn't interested in getting in the water. My father had recounted a story that when he was teen, a man had lost his dentures in the Rockaway waters and his teeth were still biting people if they went too far in the surf. We believed him and we were content to stay on the sand and close to David.

I remember when David was drafted. By the time he announced this to the family, it was too late to do anything about it. A quick trip to basic training in March of 1969, an assignment to the light weapons infantry and then off to Quang Ngai. Two months later, on May 30, 1969, David was declared a casualty of the Vietnam War. The records indicated that he died of "multiple fragmentation wounds". On the day that David was killed, it was Memorial Day in the U.S.

On this Memorial Day, almost 55 years later, we honor David and mourn his passing and we wonder about how different our lives would have been had he survived. We don't know where to find his remains, but we do know that he's not forgotten. David's name is inscribed on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington DC. on Panel 23w, Line 22.



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