



Herbert W Stutz

August 28, 1929 - March 23, 2020

Herb Stutz passed away March 23 at his home in Prescott, Ariz., at the age of 90.

He was born to Gustave and Rose Stutz, in Newark, N.J., in 1929, just a few weeks before the start of the Great Crash on Wall Street. He was a child of the Depression as he grew up in northern New Jersey. He graduated from Irvington High School in June of 1947, but the course of his life began to take shape when he began attending Evangel Baptist Church in Newark, where he met his future wife, Esther Gayk. He was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1951 and served as a corporal at Fort Dix in New Jersey. He married Esther on June 28, 1952, and he was honorably discharged from the Army in May of 1953. He entered the full-time workforce about a month later when he was hired by the Newark News. That was the start of a newspaper career that spanned over 41 years. Herb and Esther's first child, Jean, was born in April of 1953, and two years later, he became Scholastic Sports Editor at the Newark News. A son, Kenneth, was born in April of 1957, and the family settled into their home in Union, N.J. In 1959, he was elected president of the New Jersey Sports Writers Association. He and Esther moved their family to Cherry Hill, N.J., after he was hired as Scholastic Sports Editor at the Philadelphia Bulletin in June of 1964. In the summer of 1968, the Bulletin assigned him to cover the race riots on his former home turf: Newark, N.J. He briefly covered golf for the Bulletin, including Raymond Floyd's one-stroke victory over Gary Player at the 1969 PGA Championship near Dayton, Ohio.

Shortly thereafter, he was named the Bulletin's Assistant Sports Editor. In January of 1972, Herb was elected President of the Philadelphia Sports Writers Association for a one-year term, and in August of that year, he was promoted to Sports Editor of the Bulletin. He served in that capacity for eight years. During his tenure, he directed the Bulletin's coverage of the Flyers winning two Stanley Cups, the Phillies capturing their first ever World Series title, the Eagles' transformation under Dick Vermeil (who coached the team to its first Super Bowl appearance in 1981) and the resurgence of the 76ers, who advanced to the NBA finals three times in six years before winning the title in 1983.

In November of 1980, he left to become Sports Editor of the Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch and moved to Dublin, Ohio. Herb enjoyed having a professional relationship with Jack Nicklaus, who held his Memorial golf tournament each year in Dublin. He led the sports department in candid coverage of Ohio State athletics. In March of 1985, Herb was named Sports Editor of the Los Angeles Times' Orange County Edition, and later that year, he arrived at his career pinnacle by being elected President of the Associated Press Sport Editors. After serving his one-year term, he continued his work with the APSE, even into retirement. He was the APSE's Convention Coordinator from 1997 until 2007.

Herb and Esther moved from Dublin to Mission Viejo, Calif., in 1985, where they remained until Herb retired from his position with the L.A. Times in August of 1994.

During his time with Times, he enjoyed helping develop the careers of many young sportswriters.

Herb was always active in Baptist churches and served in many capacities. At the First Baptist Church of Prescott (now Solid Rock Christian Fellowship), he used his talents to produce the church's monthly newsletter as well as serving multiple terms on the Board of Deacons, well into his 80s. He also served on several pastor-nominating committees.

In retirement, Herb and Esther moved to Prescott, where they devoted much

of their time to church and family. They also enjoyed traveling with friends and family. He remained a very active sports fan.

His family will celebrate a life well lived as a faithful son, loving husband, wonderful father, grandfather and great grandfather, consummate journalist and true man of God.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Esther; his daughter, Jean Hood (Wayne); his son, Ken Stutz (Lynn); three grandchildren, Chris Hood, Daniel Hood and Kathryn Stutz; and four great-grandchildren.

A memorial service is planned for an as yet undetermined date.

Tribute Wall

TT

“*Herb was a rock for me during my years attending Associated Press Sports Editors’ annual conventions. I could always bounce any problem, great or small, off Herb and count on a thoughtful response. I learned so much from him.*

I knew of Herb while he was sports editor of the Evening Bulletin in Philadelphia. From 1977-1981, I worked at the AP’s Philly bureau, which was in the Bulletin building. It was such an exciting time to be in the city. The sports teams were winning - championships even! - and Herb was directing coverage of it all.

Then he moved and I moved and, years later, I finally met him and Esther at one of the APSE conventions. His new address in the directory was Mission Viejo, Calif. For some reason, that really stuck with me. The name sounded like everything Philly was not. I imagined Herb sitting at swim meets, inhaling hibiscus and never needing an umbrella again. Just shades.

He got a kick out of that. So did Esther.

Herb was one of the great treasures of our organization.

I feel privileged to have known him.

My thoughts are with Esther and his family.

Terry R. Taylor

Paoli, Pa.

Terry R. Taylor - April 16, 2020 at 05:41 PM



“ I've just learned of Herb's passing and did not want to let the moment go without a few words about him. I met Herb in the early 1980s when I was impertinent young sports editor, and I quickly grew to admire him as an editor and even more so as a person. He had a calmness, a patience and a winning smile that brought light to every conversation. In times of duress and impatience, Herb's was a thoughtful and calming voice in the room. I followed Herb by a few years as president of APSE, and I can that the organization we both loved dearly benefited from him in ways that never could be repaid. I don't think in the many hours we shared at various outposts across the land I ever saw Herb flustered, even when running a convention. He was wonderful and inspirational. And I would be remiss to say he also was a damned (pardon my language) good sports editor. His Bulletin was a special sports section. The Dispatch and then the Times improved through his skill. Herb and I stayed in contact for a while after he retired to the Arizona mountains and my life meandered, but to me he always was the man so eloquently described in this obit (perhaps he even wrote it?). I can see his smile and hear his voice in its passages. My prayers and blessings to his family. Steven Doyle. Summerfield, N.C.

Steve Doyle - April 15, 2020 at 01:51 PM

PC

“*Herb was the consummate professional and a good friend. As one of my mentors, I owe a great deal to his guidance & leadership after he made the then 26-year-old his first hire at The Philadelphia Bulletin and welcomed me to the "major leagues" of sports journalism in a career that lasted for me for 44 years. Although he went on to Ohio, Orange County & Prescott and I landed in San Francisco, we still found time to socialize. Highlights of my trips after retiring in 2009 always included visits to see Herb & his wife Esther, who were perfect hosts right up to my last visit in summer 2018. As a longtime member of my Hall of Fame, Herb will never be forgotten. My sincere condolences to Esther, their son Ken & his wife Lynn; granddaughter Kathryn; their daughter Jean & her husband Wayne; and grandsons Chris & Daniel & their families.*

Pete Cafone - April 03, 2020 at 09:28 PM



“*I remember Herb as a strong, upstanding man of God, an elder in our church. He was always so generous in sharing tickets to sporting events for my Dad and I; and what wonderful seats they were! Jean, remember when we went to a golf tournament in Merion (I think)? Entrance compliments of your dad. I'd mention the wonderful golfers we saw, but that would give away our ages!! (Jack Nicklaus, Lee Trevino) And remember his parting words to us whenever we would go somewhere - everything in moderation!! Great words of wisdom actually! My dad will be happy to greet him in heaven. He was a really great man and will be missed by all. Love and condolences to the family. Barb & Gary Gonsar*

Barbara Gonsar - March 29, 2020 at 11:52 AM

GL

“ I have many wonderful memories of Herb. My husband and I first met Herb and Esther many years ago at Mission Hills Church here in CA. We became close friends and every fall spent fun weekends together at our cabin in the mountains at Big Bear. When they moved to AZ we got to visit them in Prescott. Our sessions of playing cards (Predict) went into the wee hours. Herb was a fun and caring person of truly good character and will be dearly missed. We will all be reunited with the Lord one day.

Gail Lattime - March 27, 2020 at 03:58 PM