



## A. Connie Keating Godwin

July 14, 1926 - November 15, 2016

Agnes “Connie” Godwin of Chestertown, MD, died peacefully on Tuesday, November 15, 2016, at Shore Nursing and Rehabilitation Center at Chestertown at the age of 90. Born on July 14, 1926, in Washington, DC, Connie was the daughter of Marie Josephine O’Connell Conway and William Keating Conway, an editor with the Hearst newspaper chain.

Connie graduated from Notre Dame Academy in Washington when she was 16, and was an English major at William & Mary College in Williamsburg, VA. As a member of the student newspaper staff, she helped break a story on college quotas that limited admissions of minority students. The story was picked up by wire services and relayed to newspapers throughout the country.

Connie returned to Washington and landed a job as a copy boy with the Washington Post, the perfect start for an aspiring journalist. She married a young Marine veteran, Stuart Godwin, and they started a family. The couple lived in Silver Spring for a few years, but after Stu became an FBI agent in 1955, they made the first of several moves, first to Knoxville, TN, and then to Miami, FL.

During the 1960s, as the civil rights movement swept the country, Connie became active in an organization in Miami that promoted understanding between people of different backgrounds. Connie was the Catholic member of

a panel of women with diverse racial and religious backgrounds, and in later years, she spoke proudly of the panel's impact on a range of audiences as the group fielded questions, debunked myths, and spoke in human terms of differences and commonalities.

When the FBI transferred Stu for the last time, the family moved to Anchorage, AK, a place Connie came to love. She took a job as an editor for the Anchorage Times, ("the largest paper in the largest city in the largest state" Connie would brag), and covered newsmakers in Anchorage as well as in the far reaches of Alaska. Connie made friends she kept for the rest of her life.

In the late 1970s, Connie and Stu flew to Washington, borrowed a car and drove around southeastern Pennsylvania looking for a place to retire, but nothing clicked. On the way south to return the car, Stu spotted a sign for Chestertown and remembered that he had seen a musical on a showboat in Chestertown when he was a boy. He decided to visit the town once again.

Connie and Stu instantly liked Chestertown and before they left that evening, real estate agent David Barroll had shown them a lot they decided to buy on Birch Run Road. Back in Anchorage, they built their house "by phone and mail" (the builder once mailed a cardboard box of bricks so they could choose their favorite) and after Stu retired in 1980, they moved in.

Connie took a job as a reporter for the Kent County News, then edited by Hurtt Derringer, but it wasn't long before she got another offer she couldn't refuse. Alaska Senator Ted Stevens knew Connie from her years at the Anchorage Times and heard that she had moved "to Washington," so he called and offered her a job as his press secretary.

Connie's 20-year Capitol Hill career started as a one-day-a-week job, so at

first she continued to report for the Kent County News, but eventually she was working for Senator Stevens full-time. She took an apartment near the Capitol and returned to Chestertown on weekends. When Connie retired in October of 2000, she was the longest serving press secretary in Congress, and—she loved to brag—the oldest as well.

From the start of her years in Chestertown, Connie was active in a variety of organizations, serving on boards that included Kent Youth, the Chester River Hospital, the Chester River Health Foundation, Soroptimists, Questers and the Kent County Historical Society. She briefly advised the staff of The Elm at Washington College and taught a series of journalism classes for WC-ALL called “How News Is Made.”

Connie and Stu were married for 65 years. Connie is survived by Stu; her son, Mark; daughter, Mary-Stuart “Peekie” O’Connor (David), all of Des Moines; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Her sons, Christian and Gregory, died previously.

Donations in Connie Godwin’s memory may be made to Compass Regional Hospice, 255 Comet Drive, Centreville, MD 21617.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, March 17, 2017, at 2 p.m. at Fellows, Helfenbein, and Newnam Funeral Home, 130 Speer Road, Chestertown, MD. Interment will be in Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

# Cemetery Details

## Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington, VA

# Previous Events

## celebration of life

MAR 17. 2:00 PM (ET)

Chestertown Location  
130 Speer Road  
Chestertown, MD 21620  
(410) 778-0055  
[info@fhnfuneralhome.com](mailto:info@fhnfuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *A. Connie Keating Godwin*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *A. Connie Keating Godwin*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *A. Connie Keating Godwin*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *Louise Johnson lit a candle in memory of A. Connie Keating Godwin*



**Louise Johnson** - March 17, 2017 at 02:30 PM



“ *Connie was an amazing lady I was honored to know.*



**lisa adkins** - December 09, 2016 at 12:36 AM

TS

“ Todd & Diane Smith lit a candle in memory of A. Connie Keating Godwin



Todd & Diane Smith - December 06, 2016 at 04:06 PM

DB

“ Dear Stu and family, We were so sad to hear of the news that Connie had passed. She was such a wonderful, gracious lady. It was a pleasure to have known her and she will be deeply missed. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. Our love and sympathy, Henry and Debbie Bitter




Debbie Bitter - November 26, 2016 at 08:17 AM

KL

“ Kenda Leager lit a candle in memory of A. Connie Keating Godwin



Kenda Leager - November 23, 2016 at 09:07 AM

 Shannon Black

“ She was a wonderful woman whom I enjoyed spending days w her. I will never forget our trip to Atlantic City. She was a great mentor and taught me many things, will miss her greatly. Thoughts and Prayers to her family!



Shannon Black - November 22, 2016 at 07:01 PM

SF

“ Sharon Moffett Freeman lit a candle in memory of A. Connie Keating Godwin



Sharon Moffett Freeman - November 22, 2016 at 08:13 AM

SF

Connie was a wonderful person, who was inspiring to all, she will be missed by many. I have a lot of wonderful memories.. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family

Sharon Moffett Freeman - November 22, 2016 at 08:15 AM

MA

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Maryann - November 21, 2016 at 12:55 PM



“ Cindy King lit a candle in memory of A. Connie Keating Godwin



Cindy King - November 18, 2016 at 05:57 AM

FD

“ *Fran Durner lit a candle in memory of A. Connie Keating Godwin*



---

**Fran Durner** - November 17, 2016 at 01:55 PM

FD

*Connie was a strong, positive supporter of mine from the beginning of my career as a young photojournalist to the present. Her kindness to me, funny and spot-on observations will always be remembered by me. My sympathies to the family.*

---

**Fran Durner** - November 17, 2016 at 01:59 PM

LI

“ *Luisa's Cucina Italiana lit a candle in memory of A. Connie Keating Godwin*



---

**Luisa's Cucina Italiana** - November 17, 2016 at 09:02 AM

CC

“ *Carol Callaway lit a candle in memory of A. Connie Keating Godwin*



---

**Carol Callaway** - November 16, 2016 at 07:47 PM

MR

“ *Maryann And Max Ruehrmund lit a candle in memory of A. Connie Keating Godwin*



Maryann and Max Ruehrmund - November 16, 2016 at 04:20 PM

CQ

“ *Cathy Quesenberry lit a candle in memory of A. Connie Keating Godwin*



Cathy Quesenberry - November 16, 2016 at 10:05 AM

CQ

*What an amazing women! She was involved in her work in journalism and working with the community. She was a classmate of my mother"s and her husband was an FBI agent like my Dad. Connie and i had a great deal in common. My personal knowledge with Connie came through our Soroptimist International of Kent & Queen Anne's Counties organization.. She will be missed. Stu, you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.*

Cathy Quesenberry - November 16, 2016 at 10:11 AM

LW

“ *Linda & Michael Waal lit a candle in memory of A. Connie Keating Godwin*



Linda & Michael Waal - November 16, 2016 at 10:01 AM

LI

*Connie was an extraordinary woman and will be missed not only by Stu and family but an entire community of friends.  
Linda & Michael Waal*

**Linda** - November 16, 2016 at 10:03 AM

VQ

“ *Vickie Quinn lit a candle in memory of A.  
Connie Keating Godwin*



**Vickie Quinn** - November 16, 2016 at 08:15 AM

MS

“ *Mary Simmons lit a candle in memory of A.  
Connie Keating Godwin*



**Mary Simmons** - November 15, 2016 at 04:37 PM

MS

*I am so very sorry for your loss. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. Mary Simmons*

**Mary Simmons** - November 15, 2016 at 04:38 PM

VQ

*Praying for Connie's Family. Connie was a respected wonderful lady in Soroptimist International of Kent & Queen Anne's County. Thank you for your friendship, time and support for many years! She surely will be missed by all!*

*Vickie Quinn, President*

**Vickie Quinn** - November 16, 2016 at 08:17 AM

CD

*We, too, are praying for Connie's family. As we have the annual Festival of Trees, an event that was Connie's idea, we will continue to remember her.*

*Charmayne*

---

**Charmayne Dierker** - November 17, 2016 at 08:14 AM