



Carlton Edward Spitzer

February 11, 1925 - May 4, 2013

Columnist, author, playwright, disability advocate and public affairs counselor, Carlton E. Spitzer, died May 4, 2013, at William Hill Manor in Easton. He was 88.

His eclectic column, "Keeping Pace" in the Star Democrat and Sunday Star on Maryland's Eastern Shore ranged from personal profiles to political commentary and often featured persons with disabilities.

His plays also featured persons with disabilities and others who overcame adversity. Performances raised funds for non-profit organizations. He established the Hugh Gregory Gallagher Motivational Theatre in 2009.

Born February 11, 1925, in Buffalo, NY, third of four sons of Rudolph and Margaret Carney Spitzer, he attended Kenmore public schools and learned to fly at age 16.

He served in the army three years during World War II, and later attended the Art Institute of Buffalo and St. Peter's College, School of Human Relations.

He married Joan Patricia Smith of New York City on July 15, 1948, in Buffalo, NY. They have seven children, fourteen grandchildren, and fourteen great-grandchildren.

He was director of public relations for the Utica, NY, division of Bendix Aviation in the 1950's and later opened a public relations firm there. He taught at Utica College of Syracuse University and worked evenings for the Utica Daily Press.

He was director of public relations at Wyandotte Chemicals Corporation before moving to Washington, DC, as public affairs counsel and speech writer for Education Commissioner Francis Keppel. In 1965, John W. Gardner, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, named Spitzer HEW's Director of Public Information.

He placed information specialists in regional offices to make HEW more responsive to citizens' need across the country during desegregation of schools and hospital, the start up of Medicare and inauguration of the Freedom of Information Act.

He was corporate vice president for public affairs at Borden, Inc. in the 1970's before opening a public affairs counseling firm in Washington, serving business, government, non-profit organizations, White House Conferences and commissions dealing with educational reform and private philanthropy. He helped form the National Minority Supplier Development Council and was a leader in the "corporate social responsibility" movement of the 1970's.

Mr. Spitzer's 1982 book, "Raising the Bottom Line," chronicled the rise and fall of industry's involvement in social issues. He authored two other books, hundreds of magazine and newspaper articles, and more than 700 "Keeping Pace" columns for the Star Democrat.

In the 1970's he spoke on corporate social responsibility in several countries for the United States Information Agency and was guest lecturer at U.S. universities.

He lost hearing in his 30's and wrote an article for the Saturday Evening Post in 1962 about a new surgical procedure that restored it. He was a board member of the Detroit Hearing Center and the former American Hearing Society.

In Washington, he was a member of the National Press Club and International Club.

His papers are maintained at the Ward M. Canaday Center in the Carlson Library at the University of Toledo.

A lifelong pilot, Mr. Spitzer founded Opportunity Skyway at Maryland's College Park Airport in 1990 to encourage minority and disadvantaged youth to pursue careers in aviation. President Bill Clinton announced his School-To-Work initiative from Opportunity Skyway's program at Georgetown, DE, on September 3, 1993.

Mr. Spitzer was predeceased by his parents and brother, Robert. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Joan Spitzer of Easton, MD; daughters, Kathryn Campbell (Don) of Easton, Nancy Blakeway (Jim) of Healy, AK, Mary Bowen (Jerry) of Hagerstown, MD, Susan Hodge (Wayne) of Camp Spring, MD, Patricia Spitzer (Sam Welsch) of Lincoln, NE, Amy Bivins (Tony) of Kennesaw, GA; son, John Spitzer (Melissa) of Shiremanstown, PA; his grandchildren; great-grandchildren; brothers, Richard Spitzer of S.Yarmouth, MA, Alan Spitzer (Pat) of Raleigh, NC; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A private funeral liturgy will be celebrated at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Cordova. A memorial service celebrating his life will be held at the Avalon Theatre in Easton, MD, at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Hugh Gregory Gallagher Motivational Theatre Inc., P.O. Box 1048, Easton, MD 21601 or Crossroads Community Inc., P.O. Box 718, Centreville, MD 21617 or Disability Coalition of Talbot County Inc., 100 S. Hanson St., Easton, MD 21601.

Tribute Wall



“ *Carlton Edward Spitzer*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Carlton Edward Spitzer*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Carlton Edward Spitzer*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *Joan,*
I feel so privileged to have known Carlton and will miss him. There are too few decent, competent and compassionate people in this world, and it saddens me to think that there is now one less.
My thoughts and prayers are with you.



Phil Foster - May 16, 2013 at 12:48 AM

JC

“ To Joan, our deepest sympathies for your great loss. Carl was such a wonderful man, always a smile, so kind, so supportive, so enthusiastic! It was a privilege to work with him on Opportunity Skyway and aviation education issues. I still remember when the three of us attended that outdoor Mass at Walt Disney World in the early 1990s. A Mass will be said for Carl at our parish, St. Joseph-on-Carrollton Manor, later this year. Peace be with you, and I am sure the angels have welcomed him to paradise. Janette & Mike Collins, Frederick, MD

Janette Collins - May 15, 2013 at 01:56 PM

RS

“ Our sympathy goes out to Joan and all the Spitzer family. We have so many wonderful memories of times with Carl when he was in Utica and also when Ray worked with him on projects all over the country. Our thoughts are with you all.

Ray and Lyn Simon

Ray and Lyn Simon - May 13, 2013 at 05:23 PM

JM

“ My condolences to the Spitzer family. I was very gratified to have known Carlton and shared stories with him during our time on the Mental Health Board and our subsequent meetings over coffee to catch up on activities. He was a wonderful advocate for mental health and persons dealing with physical and emotional challenges. It was a privilege to work with him to develop his book *Celebrating Life's Roots*.

He will be missed.

Jeff Messing

Jeffrey Messing - May 13, 2013 at 03:45 PM

TM

“ My thoughts are with all of you. Carlton earned his wings a long time ago. What a great mentor, advocate, and friend. I feel privileged to have known him, and to have my life touched by him. I am a better person for knowing him in fact. Peace and love.

tracey munson - May 10, 2013 at 08:52 PM

HR

“ Carlton was a wonderful friend and mentor to me. I met him in 1999 while working at Talbot Family Network and we remained friends since. He always had a way of making everyone feel special, and always seemed so truly interested in you. He will be greatly missed.

Heidi Rochon - May 09, 2013 at 02:25 PM

LJ

“ Linda Johnston lit a candle in memory of Carlton Edward Spitzer



Linda Johnston - May 08, 2013 at 04:36 PM

KZ

“ Kathleen Zawatski lit a candle in memory of Carlton Edward Spitzer



Kathleen Zawatski - May 08, 2013 at 10:08 AM

KZ

Uncle Carl was a very special man. His memory will forever be kept in my heart.

Kathleen Zawatski - May 08, 2013 at 10:13 AM

BF

“ *On behalf of the staff of the Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections at the University of Toledo, we wish to express our sincere sympathy to Carlton's family. His collection of personal papers housed in our Center document an amazing life. He will be missed by so many. But his work lives on.*

Barbara Floyd - May 08, 2013 at 07:21 AM