



Christian Godwin

May 9, 1960 - September 12, 2009

Christian Godwin, 49, a fourth-generation newspaperman and copy editor on the Delaware State News, died September 12, at Hospice of Queen Anne's in Centreville, Maryland, after a five-month battle with metastatic cancer. He commuted from Delaware City to the State News for many years, and moved to Dover last year.

The son, grandson and great-grandson of daily newspaper editors in Washington, D.C., Baltimore and Anchorage, Alaska, he began his career at age 14 in Alaska, as a copyboy for the Associated Press Chief of Bureau while still a student at East Anchorage High School.

He attended the University of Alaska-Anchorage, became a reporter, and later a copy editor on The Anchorage Times. He said one of the best moments of his career was when his managing editor, a veteran newsman, called Chris the best copy editor he had ever seen.

In the 1970s, while still on The Times, Chris was the baseball stadium announcer for the Anchorage Glacier Pilots, one of the National Baseball Congress teams then made up of college players from schools across the nation. Knowing the players, many of whom became Major League stars and Hall of Fame members, was one of the bonuses, especially because the pay was almost non-existent, he said.

In the 1980s, he moved to Chestertown, Maryland, and attended Washington College for several years, before joining the staff of the Delaware State news in Dover.

After a year-long bout recovering from Guillain-Barre syndrome at Delaware's Christiana Hospital, and a brief return to the State News, he had the opportunity to attend the state's flagship alcohol rehab program in Delaware City. He "graduated" after a year, and remained committed to, and proud to be a member of Alcoholics Anonymous, and grateful to the State for providing the program.

Known for his wry sense of humor, his depth of knowledge in many subjects, particularly sports and history, Chris was an old-fashioned grammarian. He helped younger news staffers understand the rules of grammar, helped them to write clear, concise sentences, and hoped that they, too, would learn to love words and linguistics as much as he did.

Chris loved the news business. He couldn't imagine working anywhere else, he said. "Long days and fighting to make deadlines, particularly when big stories break two minutes before press time, can be crazy, scary and stressful. But when the presses roll and I have that first edition in my hands, I know it was all worth it," he said. "I forget how hard we worked. It's then that I feel like I was paid to play. But maybe we shouldn't tell the boss that," he said with a wink.

A prodigious reader, a music lover, a puzzle whiz, he carried on interesting correspondences with some of his favorite writers, including one with Catch 22's author Joseph Heller. Heller's 1986 account, *No Laughing Matter*, of his year spent, like Chris's, recovering from Guillain-Barre's paralysis, began a lively exchange that continued until the author died in December, 1999.

Chris is survived by his parents, Stuart and Connie Godwin of Chestertown, Maryland, both of whom started as copyboys on Washington, D.C., papers; his brother Mark, now a lawyer, but a former copy editor and columnist in Anchorage; and his sister, Mary-Stuart Godwin O'Connor, now a teacher, who wrote sports stories for The Anchorage Times when she was in high school. Both live in Des Moines, Iowa. In addition, he has two nieces, Jessica Godwin Schroeder and Chloe O'Connor, both of Des Moines, and a nephew, Adam Godwin, of Dalian, China.

A celebration of Chris's life is scheduled October 12, 2009 at 2:00 PM at Fellows, Helfenbein, and Newnam Funeral Home in Chestertown, Maryland. His first cousin, the Rev. Caroline Keeney Meyers, of Amherst, Massachusetts, will conduct the service before a reception for all family and friends attending. The family suggests those wishing to honor Chris send memorial contributions to the Hospice of Queen Anne's, 255 Comet Drive, Centreville, Maryland 21617.

Arrangements by Fellows, Helfenbein, and Newnam Funeral Home
Chestertown www.fhnfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Christian Godwin*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Christian Godwin*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Christian Godwin*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *To the Family and Friends of Christian Godwin, I am so sorry to hear about the loss of your dear loved one Christian. Please accept my sincere condolences, in Isaiah 25:8,9 it says “He will actually swallow up death forever, and the Sovereign Lord Jehovah will certainly wipe the tears from all faces. And the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for Jehovah himself has spoken [it]. And in that day one will certainly say: “Look! This is our God. We have hoped in him, and he will save us. This is Jehovah. We have hoped in him. Let us be joyful and rejoice in the salvation by him.” So, we can see from this scripture that soon Jehovah God himself will not only swallow up death forever, but he will also remove the pain that goes along with losing a loved one. May this scripture comfort you and give you a great hope for the future.##imported-begin##ms. brown##imported-end##*

November 07, 2009 at 08:49 AM



“ To the family and friends of Christian Godwin, please accept my sincere condolences in your time of sorrow. May the following words from God’s Word offer you a measure of comfort and hope for the future: At John 5:28, 29, Jesus reveals, “Do not marvel at this, because the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out.” Until this time, may this scriptural hope for the future serve to comfort and strengthen you in the days ahead.

Sorrowfully submitted, Mr. Johnson##imported-begin##Mr. Johnson##imported-end##

October 21, 2009 at 07:16 AM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers and hope as the days go by it gets a little easier for your family and you all find peace and comfort.##imported-begin##Candy Wilson##imported-end##

September 16, 2009 at 01:01 PM



“ Chris was a good friend of mine since I started with the Delaware State News in June 2006. I have missed seeing him coming in the door and speaking with a slight smile each day. He was always kind to me in person, through emails, Im's or on the phone. Even when my mom passed away August 16 of this year, he took the time to send me an email that he was very sorry. I will miss the big party he and talked about having when he turned 50. He will be missed. Donna##imported-begin##Donna Jones##imported-end##

September 15, 2009 at 08:34 AM



“ With much love and sincere sympathy to Stu, Connie and all of your family.##imported-begin##Max & Mayann##imported-end##

September 13, 2009 at 10:10 PM