



Robert John "Rob" McNamee

May 21, 1936 - August 30, 2021

Robert "Rob" John McNamee, 85, of Lebanon PA, passed away on August 30, 2021 due to complications from a bad fall at home. Up until his last days, Rob maintained his signature smile and the twinkle in his eye.

Rob was born on May 21, 1936 in Kingston Ontario, to Bernard A. McNamee (Lansdowne, Ont) and Mary Margaret Anne Gaudaur McNamee (Orillia, Ont). The second of six siblings, "Robin," as he was affectionately nicknamed for his lively disposition, was raised in a traditionally intellectual, Jesuit-Catholic environment, in which he was encouraged to think creatively, to question everything, and to extend grace to all. He grew up surrounded by the forests and wildlife along the waterways of Seeley's Bay, Ontario, and that made a lasting impression on him. As a young man, he attended Regiopolis Secondary School, Kingston and Saint Patrick's College, Ottawa (later Carleton University) where he studied liberal arts and was a solid right wing on the hockey team. An accomplished piano and guitar player, Rob played in a rockabilly band and was known for his enthusiastic dancing style. After graduation from university, Rob emigrated to the United States, to follow and to marry his sweetheart, Jeanne Louise Wilder of Lebanon PA, in 1960. They would settle in North Cornwall Township and raise a family together. Rob was a career journalist and newspaper editor, attending Michigan State School of Journalism before enlisting in the US Navy from 1961-1963. Upon his return from Naval Air Station, Jacksonville Florida, Rob joined his wife's family business, The Lebanon Daily News. Starting as a reporter and

photographer, he was promoted to City Editor in the mid-60s, a position where he excelled for almost 20 years. During his time at the LDN, Rob mentored and encouraged developing journalists, giving many their start in the newspaper business. He was loved, respected and revered, and remembered as “larger than life” for his kindness, strength and professionalism and for “standing up for what he believed in.” Later in his career, he worked for the Pennsylvania House Republican Caucus and on the city desk at the Harrisburg Patriot News, eventually running a part-time public relations and consulting business until his retirement.

Rob was committed to involvement in the Lebanon community, served on numerous non-profit boards and donated to local and national charitable causes close to his heart. An avid hunter and fisherman in his youth, as he mellowed, Rob emerged as a concerned environmentalist and lifelong lover of the natural world. In his later years, he was known to release his catch or to cook breakfast back at camp. Rob built a deer stand along the tree line of his home, so he could watch the deer in the cornfield, while enjoying a draught of single malt scotch and the beautiful Pennsylvania sunset. Although Rob was distinctly Canadian at the core, he was a proud American and appreciated his US citizenship. He did not shirk his responsibilities or take those privileges for granted and was sympathetic to the desire of so many to be accepted into this country. Rob liked to tease and to be teased, told amazing, colorful stories, and enjoyed the ribald company of family, as well as numerous friends and colleagues. To know Rob was to love him, and he was truly loved, mostly for his kindness but also for his easy going, affable spirit.

In addition to his wife of 61 years, Jeanne, Rob is survived by his children, John Wilder (and wife Kathleen Thompson, Gilbert AZ), Robert Adam (and partner Monica Williams, Hershey PA) and Mary Jane (and husband Mark Kapolka, Lebanon PA), and as well as his deeply loved grandchildren Pamela Jeanne, Sophie Jane and Wilder Albert Kapolka and Kevin John McNamee. He is also survived by brothers James and Stephen, numerous McNamee nieces and nephews, and preceded in death by siblings, Bernard, Thomas,

and Mary Anne (“Susie”), all of Canada.

A gift, in memoriam, may be made to The Chesapeake Bay Foundation, online at www.cbf.org or by phone at 410-268-8816.

Tribute Wall



“ Robert John "Rob" McNamee

October 22, 2023 at 10:35 PM



“ Robert John "Rob" McNamee

October 06, 2023 at 08:29 AM



“ Robert John "Rob" McNamee

October 05, 2023 at 11:43 PM



“ Dear Jeanne and Family,

I'm so sorry to hear of Rob's passing. He was a great journalist, a fabulous leader, a wonderful husband and father and a loyal, compassionate friend to so many. I count myself among those lucky enough to appreciate him in all these capacities. Over the years, both at the Daily News and beyond, Rob taught me so much about journalism, but also about how to appreciate and celebrate life. The world is a poorer place today with the passing of this extraordinary man. Peace and love.

Dan McCarthy

Dan McCarthy - September 11, 2021 at 02:38 PM

SS

“ Rob was talented, smart and funny -- a superb combination for a journalist -- and when it was time to be serious he was that as well. I always received a "Hey, Snyderman" from him whenever our paths crossed. May God comfort his family and friends.

Steve Snyder - September 09, 2021 at 08:56 AM



“ Dear McNamee family,

I'll never forget the good times I and many others had at the Daily News working with Rob. He was a fine newsman and editor-competent, fair, trustworthy, cool and collected when he had to be. What I learned about reporting and editing I learned from him. But what I remember most - and value most - about Rob is what fun he was to be around - bright, witty, outgoing, amicable, calm under pressure, always appreciative of a good joke.

I admired the way he handled the wild crazies who were always bursting into the newsroom in a fury. While I considered cowering under my desk as some irate nutcase came roaring up, Rob would stand up in the crazie's face and calm him down (or maybe quietly scare him off, I was too nervous to watch) At any rate, the aggressor would leave, I would start breathing again, and Rob would sit back down and continue whatever he was working on.

For every one of those scary encounters there were moments when the whole editorial department would crack up with laughter over the everyday things that inevitably happen in a newsroom. I can't think of many other working environments that can create such camaraderie, and in our case Rob was a great part of the glue that held us together. It wasn't the same when he left. Not even close. I consider myself blessed that I knew him, if only for a while, and remembering him in his element will always make me smile. I hope you all find comfort in knowing how much he meant to those of us who had the good fortune to spend some time with him.

Susan Geib Moyer

Susan Moyer - September 08, 2021 at 08:05 PM

JL

“ *Dear Jean*

It seemed like only yesterday we all worked together at the newspaper and the good times we had but alas we know many years have passed since then. Our children are all grown with children of their own and we've all gotten a bit older too. God bless you, John, Rob, Maryjane and their families as you continue your lives without Rob. My prayers and thoughts are with you during this time.

Jeanette Laverty

Jeanette Laverty - September 08, 2021 at 06:12 PM