



Robert J. Ellsworth

June 15, 1925 - October 9, 2009

Robert J. Ellsworth, a Unionville resident, Channel 3's first and long time 11:00 o'clock news anchor, local celebrity and radio personality passed into eternal rest on Friday morning, October 9, 2009 at 7:30 AM at the Hospital of Central Connecticut. Bob was a child protege who gave a piano recital in Carnegie Chamber Hall at the age of fourteen, a WW II veteran, a Colgate alumnus, a loving and much loved husband, father, grandfather and friend.

He served in the Pacific Theatre with the US Army, which he joined at the age of 17 in 1943. During his active army career, Bob was awarded the Bronze Star with a "V" for valor, earned a Purple Heart and rose from private to the rank of lieutenant. In the late fifties, Bob rejoined the armed forces, serving in both the Army Reserve and the Connecticut National Guard, ultimately retiring with thirty years of service and the rank of Chief Warrant Officer Three. He was active in several Guard service and social organizations, including the Old Guard. He also worked tirelessly in causes dedicated to recognizing the sacrifices of the country's armed forces during the twentieth century conflicts, including most recently as a member of the committee that spearheaded the creation of the Connecticut Veterans Memorial in West Hartford.

Following the conclusion of the war, Bob entered the broadcast industry in New York, beginning a career that would result in Bob's face and voice becoming recognizable the world over. Over the years he worked for several local radio and TV stations, the Voice Of America in Washington DC, and narrated literally thousands of documentaries, films and programs in a rich

baritone voice instantly recognized by his many listeners and fans. With a smile and personality that lit up any room he chose to enter, Bob was the type of person who inspired people to cross a street just to share a few words with him.

But Bob was also a humble person who immensely enjoyed the simple pleasures of life. He took great joy in the time spent and special occasions celebrated with the instant family he took on when he married the great love of his life, Rosemary, in 1974. For his many friends, Bob was someone who selflessly reached out to help in times of personal trouble or to give them a boost on their climb up the ladder of life. To his grandchildren, Bob was a special man, loving and being loved as deeply as any grandfather could be. He always believed that some of the best pictures ever taken of him were those where he was playing with his grandchildren or entertaining them with the myriad voices and facial expressions which he was capable of creating on a whim. Some of his more recent favorite pictures are those of him amongst the joyous grandparents posing with the newly wedded bride and groom, or as the proud great grandfather holding his newly born great grandson or great granddaughter. To have "Grandpa Ellsworth" read a specially chosen passage at their wedding was considered a choice opportunity not to be passed up by his grandchild and newly-wed spouse. In addition to his beloved wife, Bob leaves behind his six children by marriage, fifteen grandchildren, five young great-grandchildren and hundreds and hundreds of individuals who each counted themselves honored to be one of his closest friends. The world is a better place for the short time in which Bob lived in it and poorer with his passing.

Bob's life will be celebrated during an 11:00 o'clock service at St. Peter Clavier in West Hartford on Thursday October 15 and his remains interred immediately thereafter at Fairview Cemetery. Donations in Bob's memory to Holy Family Monastery in West Hartford and WJMJ Catholic Radio in Hartford would be welcomed by each of these organizations and a cause of celebration for Bob were he still amongst us.

Tribute Wall



“ *Bob was a wonderful mentor and friend. His smile could light up a room and he provided Nutmeg TV with many hours of wonderful programming. We will miss him very much. Our sincere condolences to Rosemary and family.*

*Joanie McCauley, Executive Director
Nutmeg Television##imported-begin##Joanie McCauley##imported-end##*

November 13, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *We were so sorry to learn that Bob had passed away. We grieve with you on your loss.*

*Sincerely,
Joe and Rosemarie Dubiel MOAA##imported-begin##joseph &
rosemarie Dubiel##imported-end##*

October 15, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *May Almighty God of all Comfort and tender mercies Comfort the Ellsworth Family 2Co.1:3,4,
The hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and Come out, Almighty God will wipe out every tears from their eyes and death will be no More, His HOPE and PROMISE SOON TO BE ATTAIN,*

*May these thoughts be of some Comfort.
gingerrobinsn@bellsouth.net##imported-begin##Ginger
Robinson##imported-end##*

October 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I have so many wonderful memories with Grandpa Ellsworth. Quite simply, anyone who has been fortunate enough to know Grandpa, is a better person for it. Grandpa was so special and I am grateful and comforted when I think of the special times I spent with him, and the fun and laughter that always ensued.

I love you, Grandpa.##imported-begin##Melanie Stiles##imported-end##

October 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I had seen Bob on TV and heard him many times on the radio but never got to meet him until I started to attend Stiles and Beck family functions almost 20 years ago. I enjoyed our many conversations over the years. He was always interested in everything and had the most marvelous recall of stories and events. My deepest condolences to Rosemary and other members of the family.##imported-begin##Edward Klemonski##imported-end##

October 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Rosemary,
Sincerest condolences to your entire family. It was always a joy to bump into Bob at some event I was covering. He had that intangible quality of easy approachability that media researchers are always looking for. It's what made him a great broadcaster and a quality for which we all strive.##imported-begin##Mark Davis##imported-end##

October 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Bob Ellsworth was a man who always had a smile and a memory to share. It was never a true family gathering unless he was there. Our love, hugs and prayers are with the entire family.##imported-begin##Giovanni & Madeline Marino & Family##imported-end##

October 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ My wife, Teddie, and I had the pleasure of knowing Bob for many years. We were aware of how fine a pianist he was because we sold him his piano and heard him play many times. Occasionally we would meet him at a musical gathering and loved talking music with him. Of course he would bring us up to date regarding his military efforts and you could tell how proud he was of his contributions. He was a gentleman and we will miss him.

Harold and Teddie Niver##imported-begin##Harold Niver##imported-end##

October 13, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Uncle Bob was a wonderful human being. He was a gregarious, humourous, intelligent and loving man. We have many fond memories of shared family gatherings. Uncle Bob was a great story teller, pianist and could impersonate many cartoon characters. When our two children, Stephanie and Chase were young he would use his many voices to entertain them and would capture their attention for as long as he wanted. Uncle Bob was one of those special people who touched deeply his family, friends and vitrually everyone he met. We will miss him and cherish our memories of the time we spent with him all the days of our lives.

We will keep Aunt Rosemary,our cousins and their families in our prayers. May the fond memories of Uncle Bob provide comfort at this difficult time.

With love and prayers,

Jerry, Kim, Chase & Stephanie Weidmann
Germantown, Wisconsin##imported-begin##Jerry
Weidmann##imported-end##

October 13, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I had the distinct privilege of working with Bob in the mid-1980’s while producing training videos for the data processing industry. Bob was, indeed, a true gentleman, and possessed a kind of wit that kept us all laughing and in high spirits whenever we got together for a shoot at the CPTV studios in Hartford. I remember those times with great fondness, and extend my sincere condolences to Bob’s family and friends.##imported-begin##Jim Howe##imported-end##

October 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Bob's final residency at a West Hartford convalescent facility drew the largest number of visitors ever to see a patient there. Also: the announcement of his passing generated more personal messages to the WTIC Alumni website than any other topic to date. Those two facts speak volumes about his huge circle of friends, admirers, and fellow broadcasters. More importantly, the facts speak for themselves in assessing Bob's impact on his fellow human beings. He was -- and is -- a "legend" in his own time.##imported-begin##Bill Hennessey##imported-end##

October 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Robert Ellsworth was a very fine person, and will go down in history as one of the most talented radio personalities of the 20th Century. He had a wonderful way with people and was able to earn their trust and respect with his sincere personality, kindness and generosity. To know him was to love him dearly. This world is definitely a better place because of his most generous contributions to the broadcasting industry and society, and he will be sorely missed. I was so blessed to have known him, he was a wonderful man. My deepest sympathy to his family and friends.##imported-begin##Elaine Mabe##imported-end##

October 11, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Bob Ellsworth was a good friend and comrade in arms. I knew him in the National Guard where he served with excellence. One always knew Bob's voice from Channel 3 to Catholic radio. We will miss him dearly at the Officers Club and always remember his spirit and smile. Jim throwe MG AUS ret##imported-begin##Jim Throwe##imported-end##

October 11, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Shared Experience*
Fond Memories

Almighty God, help us to fulfill our duties to protect and maintain the peace.

As Warrant Officers, let us teach others and expand their technical competence.

Encourage us to faithfully adhere to our Oath of Office in all aspects of our military duties and our off-duty life.

Lead us to inspire confidence in the Warrant Officer Corps, in the military service, and the United States of America.

Guide our Military and Nation's Leaders in all their endeavors.

Remember all those who have gone before us, particularly those who have made the supreme sacrifice on behalf of our country.

Watch over and protect our Corps, our military, and our Nation.

Amen

God Bless

Leonard B. Glasser

CW4, AUS Ret##imported-begin##Leonard B. Glasser##imported-end##

October 11, 2009 at 12:00 AM