



John H. Andrus II

October 24, 1940 - May 15, 2024

Journalist, Editor, Writer, Father,
and Grandfather

Dear Friend,

It was from a donation made in John Andrus's memory that we first heard of his passing. I was fortunate enough to learn of his memorial service a day beforehand, and it came as no surprise that he had a wonderful family. While I had not seen John in a long time we had honored his retirement with an Ah Why Knot.

As a journalist he covered our region for many years. He had a deep love of our area

that he passed along to his family and community, and a curiosity about nature, history, people and community that made him a great writer and sharer. He was kind and it made his coverage compassionate.

John would call me for information on local festivals like the purple martin boat tours, and if he thought something was afoot he might give me a heads up. I rarely saw John, though; we were phone and penpal-connected.

After his retirement we made an annual call thanking him for his continued kindness to the organization. However, as is often the case at services, I found out a lot more about him from his family's remarks. It made me feel cheated that I hadn't taken more time to get to know him better.

I'd like to share some of his daughter Kris's remarks. As daughter myself they were very touching to me. In her words you will sense how he connected with nature like so many of our members:

Our dad/ grandpop, was known in our family for his gift giving, and although the gifts always come in handy, its not the material things that he gave us; it's more in the way in which he inspired us that I want to tell you about.

Like awareness, for the beauty and wonder in the world around us, peepers in the springtime, a bird's song, the sound of the waves crashing, the way the leaves on a Silver Dollar Tree look when the wind blows, the wonder of planting seeds in the ground and watching a garden grow, the beauty that can be found through the lens of a camera or in a sketch or painting. The ability to see God in a sunrise or sunset.

Joy: in the time spent with family and a few good friends sharing a meal (usually something from the grill) on a porch or around a dining table telling stories that were almost always laced with Mom-mom Bertha style humor.

Our imaginations were fueled by Dad's own Huck Finn childhood adventures.

And finally, Love: not just in the words "I love you" although they were always said at the end of a phone call or visit.

It's knowing, especially in the last few weeks, that love could be heard in the clinking of bottles raised in a toast. That it felt like a handshake, or the squeeze of the toes. That it was found in the slightest smile or even in the growth of a radish plant. And I am pretty certain that Dad would have said if you could imagine love as a flavor it would taste like Tomato Soup Cake.

On a final note: John, I hope there is a grill and an extra-loud spring peeper that has greeted you in the afterlife. And although I have never heard of nor tasted Tomato Soup Cake, have slice for us. Lastly thank you for making your life's work the opening of the community's eyes to the beauty of our region. Well done!

Our condolences go out to John's family, Kristine and Paul Gentilini; John H. and Rachel Andrus III (Rachel); his grandchildren, Reef and Skylar Gentilini; his longtime companion Natalie Reed; and his brothers, David L. Jr. (Edna), Bruce (Dawn), and Paul Andrus.

Sincerely,

Jane Morton Galetto

Jane Morton Galetto
CU Maurice River Board President



John was an Ah Why Knot winner in 2010 and we shared the following information on that occasion:

John H. Andrus was presented with an Ah Why Knot award for his coverage of community news in the Cumberland County Reminder for the past 13 years. Many people in our region depend on it for local news and John packed its pages with a wide variety of coverage. He retired in

September as its editor and welcomes the fact that his only deadlines now are self-imposed.

Growing up John spent his summers in Cape May. A graduate of Ohio State University School of Journalism, he started his career with the Atlantic City Press in 1964 as a reporter in the Cape May bureau.

In 1966 he moved to the weekly scene with the Wildwood Leader. In that same year he was named Editor of the Cape May Star and Wave. Later he became editor of The Cape May County Herald, the Ocean City Sentinel-Ledger, and by 1997 he was with the Reminder.

At the Reminder John ran many environmental / Conservation stories, including The NJ Conservation Foundation's bylines, Bayshore Discovery Project, American Littoral Society, NJ Fish and Game, The Natural Lands Trust, Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and Its Tributaries, Inc., and the like. He covered South Jersey Bayshore news of communities large and small, everything from muskrat dinners to pancake breakfasts. The Reminder dealt with the ordinary and the controversial. We are grateful for John's contributions to the community and to our organization. Thanks, John.

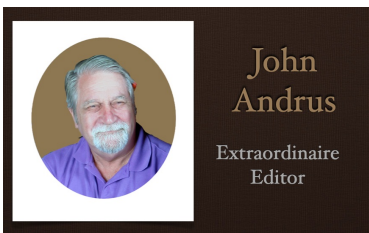
Above photo: John accepting the award, Union Lake Sailing Club, CU File, J. Morton Galetto



A cute photo from a slide show at the memorial: granddaughter Skylar and John share an outside moment when she was a youngster.

John H. Andrus II

October 24, 1940 - May 15, 2004



Obituary

John H. Andrus II, 83, of Ocean City went to be with the Lord the morning of May 15, 2024. He died peacefully at home, surrounded by his family, after a 4-year battle with metastatic prostate cancer.

John was born in Camden, NJ to Dr. David L. Andrus and Bertha Morrison Andrus. John learned to love the Jersey Shore in Cape May where the family summered. According to John, the world went from black and white to technicolor during those summer months. During his summers in Cape May John served as a lifeguard on the Queen Street Beach where he met and later married Florence Branin; raised a family and began his long career in journalism. John attended Ohio State University's School of Journalism and after graduation began writing for the Atlantic City Press, Cape May Bureau. John also wrote for the Wildwood Leader and became editor of the Cape May Star and Wave, and later for the Cape May Herald. He served as editor for the Ocean City Sentinel Ledger and The Reminder Newspaper in Millville. As a writer and editor John kept abreast of the pulse of the Jersey Shore's regional political, environmental, and social issues.

John was a founding member of the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts. He served in the New Jersey National Guard 253rd company (Honest John) out of Cape May Court House. John was a generous man with a deep intellectual curiosity who saw the good in others. He was known for his quick wit and charm, perpetually ready with a quip. He had a love of gardening and cooking. He will be sadly missed by his friends and colleagues, and especially missed by his loving family: his children, Kristine Gentilini (Paul), John H. Andrus III (Rachel); grandchildren, Reef and Skylar Gentilini; his companion of 30 years, Natalie Reed; his brothers, David L. Jr. (Edna), Bruce (Dawn), and Paul Andrus.

There will be a memorial service at 11am on Friday, May 31st at Cape May Presbyterian Church, 500 Hughes St., Cape May, NJ where family and friends will be received from 10am to 11am. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial donations to CU Maurice River, www.cumauriceriver.org or NJ Audubon, CMBO, Cape May Point, www.njaudubon.org

CU ON THE RIVER

www.CUMauriceRiver.org

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