



Virginia Chapter Newsletter

SPJ OUTSTANDING NATIONAL SMALL CHAPTER OF THE YEAR
NOVEMBER 2003

Reflections:

When Goody Laughed, The World Seemed a Better Place

**BY FRANCINE CRUTCHFIELD
SPJ VIRGINIA PRO CHAPTER MEMBER**

Editor's Note: Charles Alfred Goodykoontz Jr., who in 41 years with Richmond Newspapers rose from reporter to senior vice president and executive editor, died Oct. 20 in an automobile crash in Cumberland County, Pa. He was 74. Goody, as he was known to friends and co-workers, joined SPJ on May 1, 1961. He served as national president of SPJ in 1978 and was president of the national Sigma Delta Chi Foundation from 1984 until 1987. He was inducted into the Virginia Communications Hall of Fame in 1992.

My younger brother used to wait at the front door for me to come home from first grade. As soon as he saw me, he would scream, "Goody, goody," our expression for all things pleasant. Forty-five years later, when I married George Crutchfield, I met the personification of our childhood exclamation.

He was Charles Alfred Goodykoontz Jr., retired executive editor of the Richmond Times-Dispatch, extraordinary philanthropist and fundraiser, known for a myriad of accomplishments, but to me he was just Goody, my husband's best friend, a large man with very short hair and a twinkle in his eye. When he threw back his head and laughed, or stretched out his arms, the world seemed a better place, no matter what his beloved newspapers reported.

If families need to be together at dinner in order to raise smarter, better-adjusted children, I believe friends need to meet for lunch, to gain nutritional value that



Charles Alfred Goodykoontz Jr.
(Photo by Dan Currier, courtesy Richmond Times-Dispatch)

Friends and colleagues remember Goody – Page 3

Chapter president recalls Goody as "giant of our profession." – Page 4

has little to do with food, and everything to do with friendship.

For 14 years, Goody and George and Jane Carlson were “out to lunch” together at least once each month.

I used to tease the “Lunch Bunch” with doggerel:

Not rain or snow, or hail or sleet
Can stop these three who love to eat.
Though, truth be told, and we surmise,
No food or tales or swapping lies
Can substitute for what they feel:
Affection for a friend who’s real.

But on the several occasions when I was their guest, I felt honored, as did all who were invited over the years.

Often it seemed neither Goody nor George could serve on a committee or board without getting the other involved. So it was with Virginia Press Association, Virginia Home for Boys, Virginia Institute of Pastoral Care and a host of projects and editing assignments.

At Halloween of 2002, Goody offered to stay in the hospital waiting room with me while George underwent 16½ hours of cardiac surgery. George’s daughter, Lisa, came from Texas. Goody took us to lunch. We followed his instructions to call every night and let him help update the other friends and relatives.

Sometimes I would tell Goody that an ice storm was coming and I needed a ride somewhere, to tease him about the occasion when, during George’s recuperation, he and Jean took me to a party. When we were ready to leave, the ice on the road was so slick that we had to borrow a four-wheel drive vehicle and leave the Goodykoontz car for retrieval the next morning.

Not too long ago, I took Goody to lunch to thank him for his support during George’s illness. He introduced himself as my husband’s “best friend,” then corrected himself by saying, “one of his best friends.”

“No,” I said, “his best.”

Already I miss phone messages beginning, “Hello, Machine...,” and the familiar answer to the how-are-you question: “Doing very well for an older man.”

Now, in George’s heart, there is a hole doctors can’t fix. Although I have no right to it, I have a hole in mine, too. No matter how many memorial Bloody Marys, dishes of rum raisin ice cream or pieces of Godiva chocolate I try to stuff in it, it will always be empty.

In the future, I will have more lunches with my friends. I will be gentler with George. We will let the stray cat in more often.

We will never be the same.

The family of Alf Goodykoontz wishes to thank you for all the cards, flowers, calls and visits that were made by members of the Society of Professional Journalists.

Goody had a deep appreciation for your organization and its members. He always enjoyed his association with SPJ.

–Jean Goodykoontz

“How Can You Describe a Giant?”

Colleagues and Friends Pay Tribute to Goody

“I’m at a loss for words. How can you describe a giant? He was so large that he seemed imposing, and he had a stern appearance when it came to news decisions, but a finer example for humanity or the news media has never existed. What a loss.”

Nancy Wright Beasley, SPJ Virginia Pro Chapter Board Member

“Nobody could have meant more to me in this profession than Goody. Not only did he serve as a mentor to me during my 14 years at Richmond Newspapers, he was a spiritual role model as well. We belonged to the same church for many years, and he was a pillar of the congregation. News of his death is devastating to me.”

Anna Billingsley, Sigma Delta Chi Educational Foundation Board Member

“All of us have lost a very dear friend and colleague. Goody and I served together for years on building committees of the Virginia Press Association, and I admired greatly his constant striving to provide the best we could for our membership. I valued his advice very much and will miss it very much. Goody was one of three SPJers whose generosity was singular when the education foundation was established some years ago. We simply could not have gotten the scholarship program off the ground without him.

Jay Pace, Sigma Delta Chi Educational Foundation Board President

“SPJ has lost a good friend and staunch supporter of the principles SPJ fosters. And the news media, particularly the media in Virginia, has lost a gem. SPJ offers its condolences to the family of Mr. Goodykoontz, his friends and all his colleagues. His lifelong commitment to quality journalism will not be forgotten by them or by SPJ and the Sigma Delta Chi Foundation.”

Mac McKerral, SPJ National President

“This is a terrible loss. He was the finest gentleman I ever knew.”

Frank Gibson, political editor, The Tennessean

“Goody was unique, in all ways and talents. He could be tough, but in a manner that said, ‘Hey, kid, I’ve been there. Don’t dream about what will be your opportunities two weeks from now. Work on what you have on your plate today, that can benefit your readers in understanding what is happening in their world, what they need to know.’ He never bluffed, he always told the truth.”

Russ Tornabene, SPJ executive officer, 1981-1987

“To me, Goody was always the embodiment of what was good about courtly, Southern gentlemen. He certainly did a great deal for SPJ and the foundation. More than that, he did it for all the right reasons.”

Jim Plante, formerly with NBC News and a past national SPJ president

“I am so saddened by this. Alf was of the active ‘old guard’ when I popped on the SPJ scene. He was someone of such reliability in judgment and in participation in projects. I shall miss him.”

Paul Davis, former news director at WGN-TV, Chicago, now senior VP at FACS

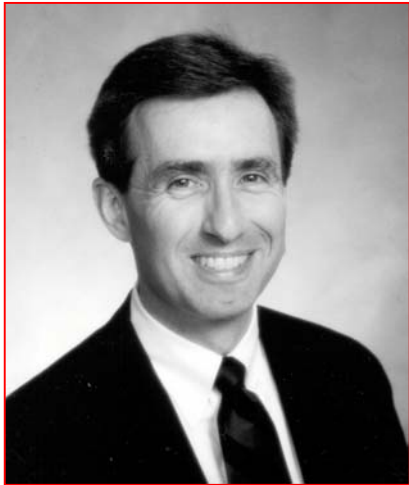


President's Message:

For Goody and for the Good of the Cause

**BY BRIAN ECKERT
SPJ VIRGINIA PRO CHAPTER PRESIDENT**

Every member of the SPJ Virginia Pro chapter feels the loss of our colleague and friend, Alf Goodykoontz, who died in an automobile accident in late October. Even those of you who didn't know Goody see from the tributes spoken and published about him that he was a role model in Virginia journalism and giant of our profession. I first met him in 1993, when I visited Richmond from North Carolina for SPJ's Sol Taishoff Seminar, which this chapter hosted. I had been a member of SPJ since 1987, but I joined through the mail as an individual member – never associated with a chapter. The



hospitality Goody, Greg Gilligan, other Times-Dispatch staff, WRIC TV and Virginia Pro members showed the 15-member seminar class totally changed my understanding of SPJ.

I discovered that journalism really is a fraternity, one whose members might compete day to day but who also support each other and the principles embodied in the First Amendment. How great it is, I thought, that journalists in a region can stand up for each other, improve their skills and even have fun together. That's the legacy of Alf Goodykoontz.

Many of us have wondered what we could do to honor Goody's memory, somehow feeling that the cards, flowers and contributions associated with such a sad time were not enough. The answer is to recruit a new member to SPJ and the Virginia Pro Chapter this year by bringing that person to a program. Our cause, nationally and locally, needs more members. Our chapter needs to rekindle the feeling of fraternity that sparked great journalists like Goody.

After two superb professional development programs this fall – Ellen Goodman's lecture and the "Who's Calling the Shots in Local and National Media?" forum – the chapter board is planning several more great programs for the spring. With the assistance of SPJ national, we will be conducting an SPJ initiation ceremony for all members who never had one and would like to take part. And Virginia Pro members will conduct the ceremony for our terrific student chapter at VCU in January. I hope you will be a part of SPJ as the year continues, in the tradition of Alf Goodykoontz and for the good of the cause.

Mission Statement

The mission of the SPJ Virginia Pro Chapter is to represent and bring together Virginia journalists on issues of importance to the profession to achieve fellowship, education and support, and to improve our credibility with the public.

AP Day at the Capitol:

Tax Reform to Be Topic One

**BY DOROTHY ABERNATHY
ASSOCIATED PRESS VIRGINIA BUREAU CHIEF**

Your SPJ chapter is working with The Associated Press to bring you an opportunity to learn about the challenging issues facing state government, most notably tax reform.

A day-long seminar called "AP Day at the Capitol" will be held Dec. 9 at St. Paul's Church at 815 E. Grace St. in downtown Richmond. The seminar will be open to all SPJ members.

Gov. Mark Warner will be our lunch speaker. In addition, Lt. Gov. Tim Kaine and Attorney General Jerry Kilgore will take the stage together to talk about issues facing Virginians and state lawmakers, including sprawl and tax reform. The seminar will include legislative panel discussions on tax reform and on social issues such as abortion and guns.

Registration is just \$30 and will include a continental breakfast and lunch. SPJ is sponsoring breakfast.

Below is a detailed agenda. You can register by calling or e-mailing Joyce DeWitt at the AP to let her know you plan to attend. Be sure to let her know you're affiliated with SPJ. You may pay at the door. Joyce's email address is jdewitt@ap.org, and her phone number is (804) 643-6646. The registration deadline is Dec. 4.



Gov. Mark Warner will be the luncheon speaker for "AP Day at the Capitol."

AGENDA FOR 2ND ANNUAL AP DAY AT THE CAPITOL

(Sponsored by Virginia APME, Society of Professional Journalists, Virginia Capital Correspondents Association and Virginia AP Broadcasters)

9 a.m. – Registration and continental breakfast

9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. – Tax Reform

Moderator: Bobby Ford, managing editor of The Winchester Star

Panelists: GOP Sen. Emmett W. Hanger, GOP Del. Allen Louderback, Democratic Sen. Charles Colgan and John Knapp of the University of Virginia's Cooper Center.

11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. – Lt. Gov. Tim Kaine and Attorney General Jerry Kilgore talk about tax reform, sprawl and other topical issues with moderator Jeff Schapiro of the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. – Lunch. Gov. Mark Warner will speak.

1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. – Discussion of social issues such as abortion, contraceptives, guns, religion in the schools, Virginia's sodomy law, civil unions and equal rights for gays.

Moderator: Ed Jones, editor of The Free Lance-Star

Panelists: Democratic Del.-elect Adam Ebbin, GOP Del. Bob Marshall, Democratic Del. Viola Baskerville and GOP Del. Jeanne Marie Devolites (a candidate for Senate).



“WHO’S CALLING THE SHOTS?” – Professor Ed Wasserman of Washington & Lee University, a journalism ethics specialist, talks with Nancy Beasley, a member of the board of the SPJ Virginia Pro Chapter, following an Oct. 21 “Voices” program at the University of Richmond. The Virginia Pro Chapter, in cooperation with the University of Richmond, Richmond College Dean’s Office, presented “Who’s Calling the Shots in Local and National Media?” The program was a chapter community service project, designed to give the public access to and answers from news decision-makers on the subjects of coverage bias, story selection and allocation of the “news hole.” Tom Mullen, on leave from the Richmond Times-Dispatch and UR visiting fellow in journalism, moderated a panel that included Mark Holmberg and Tom Kapsidelis of the Times-Dispatch; Deborah S. Henley, vice president and executive editor of the (Wilmington, Del.) News Journal; Preston Knight, editor of UR’s student newspaper, The Collegian; and Wasserman. (Photo by Jim Mann)

Scholarship Fund Benefits From SPJ-UR Event

Ellen Goodman, the Boston-based Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist, told Virginia Pro Chapter members among an audience of 400 people Oct. 16 that print news is becoming “infotainment” and “television journalism has become entertainment itself.” Goodman said the scramble for readers and viewers has dumbed-down news content to lowest common denominator coverage of Monica Lewinsky and Arnold Schwarzenegger sex scandals.

Goodman spoke at the University of Richmond, where the chapter held a pre-lecture happy hour for members and guests. The university donated food and beverages to the chapter, which in turn accepted cash donations to the Richmond SPJ/SDX Educational Foundation’s scholarships fund.



Ellen Goodman spoke Oct. 16 at the University of Richmond. (Photo by Elizabeth Taraski)

First Person:

On Working For Myself And the People Who Believe In Me

**BY GAIL GILMORE
SPJ VIRGINIA PRO BOARD MEMBER**

President Kennedy was killed when I was 15. His assassination shaped my philosophy of journalism and life.

That declaration will make complete sense to those my age. As teenagers, we'd felt safe. Now we didn't. Most of us hadn't realized that truly horrible things could happen right here in the U.S. Now we knew.

JFK had asked us to help change the world. His death changed us.

The news media changed, too. Television news became more important. We read daily papers for "proof," but we lived by our TVs that week. We wanted – and got – all news all the time.



Gail Gilmore

I always feel reflective around Nov. 22 and am especially so on this 40th anniversary. It's also the 20th anniversary of the making of a TV miniseries about JFK right here in Richmond. I covered it for The Richmond News Leader and played a reporter in one scene

I'm even more reflective because Alf Goodykoontz is gone. A national journalism figure for years and a local hero, Goody helped many journalists, including me. Others helped, too.

My father advised me to pick another career. His uncle had been editorial cartoonist for the Toronto Telegram, and Dad had worked at the Toronto Globe and Mail. He told me the hours and the pay were lousy. It was a siren's call.

University of Florida journalism professors Buddy Davis and Hugh Cunningham sang the sweet song of tedium and long hours interrupted by spasms of adrenaline rush. (Hugh, the toughest editor I know, had mentored Dan Rather, who became a star covering the Kennedy assassination. Buddy won the Pulitzer Prize

for editorial writing at the Gainesville Sun.)

My bosses at the Fort Lauderdale News & Sun-Sentinel – Jim Gay, city editor, and Scott Marshall, managing editor – added an overtime assignment as religion editor to balance my juvenile court beat. They also encouraged me to join SDX (now SPJ) in 1970, a year after the organization went co-ed.

I moved to Richmond in 1975. At my first SDX meeting, Alf Goodykoontz and George Crutchfield warmly welcomed me although I had strayed into public relations. Years later, Goody and George helped me when I wanted to be a newspaper reporter again. Goody advised me to break with PR entirely. George walked my grad school application through. Within the month, I quit work, started at VCU and soon got my best job ever as performing arts writer for The Richmond News Leader.

My husband was transferred, and I moved to Delaware and back into PR. I remained a member of the Richmond SPJ chapter.

When I returned to Virginia, I re-enrolled at VCU – for myself and for the people who'd believed in me. John Dillon also enticed me to become SPJ-Richmond treasurer,

the start of seven years on the board.

Did I change the world, as I had wanted to do when I was 15? Maybe not. But I did help Florida readers understand the terror that made a teenager – who had been sexually abused repeatedly by her father – stab him to death after he raped her 3-year-old sister. It was 1969 and the first time “incest” had appeared on the paper’s front page.

At the News Leader, I interviewed Kris Kristofferson, Shirley MacLaine and Kurt Vonnegut – top names of the time. I also got Blair Brown (who played Jackie Kennedy in that TV miniseries 20 years ago) and local people who worked as extras to talk about their memories of the JFK assassination.

In PR, I worked by the ethics I learned through mentors and SPJ.

Did I make the world a better place? I don’t know. But I do know that many people helped me to become a better professional and a better person.



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