

editor and State House correspondent who sat next to him for 20 years.

"He was a walking encyclopedia of Maryland history and just plain facts. His desk was overrun with books," said Ms. Winslow, a Hanover resident who is now digital news manager for the state Department of Transportation.

"At night, Gerald wrote his editorials and when he was finished, would help me proof the paper. . . . He never missed anything, and if we found something funny we'd crack up and double over laughing," she said.

"When he finished an editorial he'd read it out loud to check its cadence, and had a clicker he used to count the words," she recalled. "He was incredibly thorough."

Gerald Fischman was born in Washington, the son of Morton and Charlotte Fischman. He was a year old when the family moved to Silver Spring.

After graduating from high school, Mr. Fischman attended the University of Maryland, College Park, and received a bachelor's degree in journalism in 1979. During his college days he was an editor for The Diamondback, the university's student newspaper.

He began his career in 1980 as a reporter at The Carroll County Times and later was promoted to copy editor. Edward J. "Mac" McDonough, public information officer for the Maryland Emergency Management Agency, was sports editor of The Times during Mr. Fischman's tenure there.

"Fisch, we always called him that, was very meticulous, quiet and gifted, with a wry sense of humor," said Mr. McDonough, a Towson resident who was later an editor on The Baltimore Sun's old Carroll County edition.

"As the chaos of deadline approached, he'd come up with some wry observation, and then he'd go back to work. This happened fairly frequently," he said. "He was a great copy editor; the paper would never have gotten out on time without him."

He recalled Mr. Fischman as being "not gregarious . . . but very engaging when talking to you. [He] was not the kind of guy who'd go out for a drink with the staff after the paper was put to bed."

In 1990 he joined the staff of The Montgomery Journal in Rockville. He did a two-year stint as a copy editor, then was promoted to assistant city editor.

Ron Jones was a friend of Mr. Fischman's for more than 30 years. They had worked together at The Carroll County Times and later The Montgomery Journal.

"As an editor, Gerald was incredibly thorough and always had tons of questions for reporters unless their pieces were incredibly well-written, which was not often," said Mr. Jones, a Gaithersburg resident who is a night copy editor for The Washington Post. "He rarely got upset or raised his voice and was always calm, collected and very detailed-oriented."

"He wanted stories to be as objective and accurate as possible," he said. "He wanted to know their core themes and that everything made sense, and it was the same with his editorials."

Mr. Fischman went to work for The Capital in 1992, and quickly developed a reputation for his trenchant, hard-hitting and fact-laden editorials that reflected the newspaper's community temperament and roots. Mr. McDonough said his colleague "found his niche" at The Capital.

"When he had an idea for an editorial, he'd parse every word and check every fact," he said. "That he was a survivor for more than 30 years in the business is a testament to who he was."

Mr. Fischman was fascinated by the bizarre absurdities of government and wrote often about them. He also wrote about mass shootings, gun violence and gun ownership.

"He loved the odd things from history, and was skeptical of any New Age stuff and religion," Mr. Jones said.

Mr. Fischman's work earned him numerous awards from the Maryland-Delaware-D.C. Press Association—including two recent honors for editorials related to the case involving a noose found at a Crofton school, and a piece about censorship at County Council meetings. He also received awards from the Chesapeake Associated Press, as well as Mark Twain Awards for Outstanding Editorial, Best Editorial and Best of Show Editorial.

Mr. Fischman brought an unflappable nature and strong work ethic to the newsroom. Long hours and days were not uncommon, and he steered clear of debates over long hours, low pay and where newspapers will be in 10 years—or in 10 minutes.

"When deadlines approached and things were going on, Gerald never panicked," recalled Mr. Jones. "He was the kind of person who always kept his cool. He was level-headed."

"He was a human search engine and did he know Maryland politics," Ms. Winslow said. "He was so loved by his colleagues."

"I've have the difficult task of trying to write in Gerald's place," Mr. Hutzell said. "I've written four editorials so far, and before I start every one I ask myself: What would Gerald say? I wish I had half the insight into our community and human nature that he brought to the job every day."

Mr. Fischman had lived most of his life as a confirmed newspaper bachelor, and surprised his colleagues when he announced some years ago that he had fallen in love and was marrying the former Saran Erdenebat, a noted opera singer from Mongolia.

He had met the lyric soprano at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts while attending a performance of Richard Wagner's "Die Walkure." They were married shortly thereafter.

The Pasadena resident who enjoyed collecting books and reading was also a classical music, opera and ballet fan.

Services scheduled for Sunday are private. In addition to his wife, he is survived by a stepdaughter, Uka Saran of Miami, Fla.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE REDEDICATION OF THE SLOCUM STREET PARK IN HONOR OF ANDREW BARILLA, JR.

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Andrew Barilla, Jr. and Swoyersville Borough, Pennsylvania as Swoyersville rededicates its Slocum Street Park as the Andrew Barilla, Jr. Park.

Andrew Barilla, Jr. has been a force for positive change in Swoyersville Borough and an outstanding member of his community in every way. He was born in Swoyersville and was the borough's first All-Scholastic athlete in three sports. Driven to athletic and academic excellence, he attended Michigan State University on a football scholarship. After a severe knee injury ended his athletic career, Andrew finished his degree at Lock Haven State Teachers College.

As a ten-year member of Swoyersville Borough Council, Andrew made it his mission to share his love of sports and remain active with the children in his community. He founded

Slocum Street Park, which will now bear his name. He is also a charter member of the Swoyersville Baseball Club for Boys and was a driving force behind building Roosevelt Stadium. Andrew also generously sponsors Barilla's team in the Wyoming Valley Girls' Travel Softball League. For his athletic prowess and commitment to sports, he was inducted into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame in 1991.

Andrew's dedication to his community does not end with athletics. He is a past president of the Crime Clinic of Greater Wyoming Valley and the Special Court Judges Association, and he recently retired as the Magisterial District Judge for Swoyersville, Forty Fort, Luzerne, Courtdale, and Pringle.

It is a privilege to recognize Andrew during the rededication of the Slocum Street Park in his honor. I thank him for his lifetime of service to the people of Swoyersville Borough and beyond. May the park continue to be a place for residents and visitors to gather and enjoy for generations to come.

HONORING OPERA MAINE

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Ms. PINGREE. Madam Speaker, I am delighted to congratulate Opera Maine on its 25th anniversary season.

Since its inception, opera has mirrored and challenged culture, politics, and power. And now, in our fast-paced world, opera invites us to slow down. It is bold and extravagant, and it evokes emotion unlike other art forms. Both passionate and beautiful, opera is an antidote to our busy lives, showcasing voices both powerful and exquisite, honed by years of training.

I am grateful to Opera Maine for bringing acclaimed, nationally and internationally known vocal artists to the state. They have developed a reputation for creativity, sophistication, and artistic excellence, and they have played a key role in educating the next generation of aspiring theater performers.

As Maine's creative culture continues to grow and receive well-deserved recognition, I want to thank Opera Maine for 25 years of enhancing the quality of life in our beloved state.

I commend them—the little opera company that could—for their outstanding leadership and success, and for many years of entertainment and inspiration.

Bravo.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JODY B. HICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on the afternoon of June 25th, I was delayed in returning to the Capitol due to a meeting with President Donald Trump at the White House. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY Roll Call No. 403; NAY on Roll Call No. 404; YEA on Roll Call No. 405; and NAY on Roll Call No. 406.

HONORING ROB HIAASEN OF THE CAPITAL GAZETTE

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD an obituary of Rob Hiaasen, an editor of the Capital Gazette in Annapolis Maryland.

[From the Baltimore Sun]

CAPITAL GAZETTE VICTIM ROB HIAASEN REMEMBERED AS A WRITER WITH A DEFT AND GENTLE TOUCH

(By Jacques Kelly)

Rob Hiaasen, a feature writer and editor recalled for the deft and understanding touch he applied to his off-center stories, will be remembered Monday at a private memorial service. He was one of the five staff members killed Thursday at the Annapolis Capital Gazette.

The Timonium man was 59.

"Rob was a terrific reporter because he had an innate curiosity," said the former Baltimore Sun columnist Kevin Cowherd, a close friend. "He was a master of asking questions of the people he wrote about. It was one of his strengths. He was also drawn to quirky characters. In all his writing he tried to bring out the humanity."

Mr. Hiaasen was born in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., to Kermit Odel Hiaasen, an attorney, and Patricia Moran, a homemaker. He graduated from Plantation High School and earned a bachelor's degree in communications at the University of Florida.

He initially worked as an AM radio reporter and landed a job in Raleigh, N.C. There he met a competitor, Maria Mills.

"It was a small town and small radio market and everybody knew each other," she said. "We got married and moved around and landed in San Antonio."

"We both hated our jobs there."

Mr. Hiaasen reconsidered his radio work and decided instead to pursue newspaper writing and reporting. He got a reporting job at an afternoon paper, the Petersburg, Va., Progress Index. But first, he had to pass the paper's oral spelling test.

"He remembered to put the P in raspberry," Maria Hiaasen said. "He was always a good speller."

Within 18 months, he and his wife moved on to the Palm Beach Post. He worked in its downtown newsroom; she covered police in Palm Beach County.

Tom O'Hara, the retired managing editor of the Palm Beach Post, recognized the last name on Mr. Hiaasen's job application. He knew Mr. Hiaasen's brother, the novelist and longtime Miami Herald columnist Carl Hiaasen.

"Rob was just charming," Mr. O'Hara said. "It was a like a no-brainer to hire him. He was a Florida boy and that was a great attraction to me."

Mr. O'Hara assigned Mr. Hiaasen to cover county government, a beat overseen by a meticulous editor. Mr. Hiaasen often began his stories with colorful anecdotes, while his editor required numbers.

"For Rob, it was a baptism by fire," Mr. O'Hara said. "His editor would lop off the first three paragraphs. It was clear Rob belonged in features."

"He thrived there and was a delight. He was enthusiastic about his stories. Everybody loved him. I liked sitting by him and listening to his little asides."

In 1991, Mr. Hiaasen wrote a feature about five people who contracted AIDS from a

Palm Beach dentist. "Dr. Acer's Deadly Secret: How AIDS joined the lives of a dentist and his patients," won a national journalism writing award, and Mr. Hiaasen was hired by The Baltimore Sun as a features writer.

Colleagues recalled his daily routine. He took long walks, and became enamored of Baltimore's neighborhoods and their characters. He ambled through Bolton Hill, Mount Vernon and Fells Point in search of offbeat tales to tell.

Friends said Mr. Hiaasen steered clear of newsroom factions and social circles. One described him affectionately as "a tall, brooding Norwegian."

"Only two words in that phrase are true," Mr. Cowherd said. "Rob was never brooding. He needed to laugh the way he needed oxygen. He was the best colleague you could ever have. In a roomful of towering egos, he was the first guy to come up and say, 'You did a great job.'"

Mr. Hiaasen wrote about Mel Sherr, a veteran of D-Day familiar to Baltimoreans as a strolling violin player.

"Mr. Sherr knows what your favorite song is," Mr. Hiaasen wrote. "While he's asking guests where they're from, he'll be guessing their age and era. He'll then pluck a song from his play list and play. Guests nod their heads and smile. Some blush. They now remember what they had forgotten. . . . Mr. Sherr will not be stumped by requests."

He also wrote about Kirk Bloodworth, the ex-Marine and Eastern Shore waterman who was the first person to be sentenced to death and then exonerated by DNA evidence.

Mr. Hiaasen spent a year from 2003 to 2004 as a John Knight Fellow in Journalism at Stanford University. While there, he acted in a play and studied singing.

Mr. Hiaasen accepted a newsroom buyout offer in 2008 and left The Sun. By 2010 he joined the Annapolis Capital. He mentored reporters as an editor and wrote a Sunday column.

"He did an amazing pivot to become an editor," Mr. Cowherd said. "He became everything you want of a good editor—gently pushing them to do their best work and to not accept mediocrity."

He also taught a news writing class at the University of Maryland's Philip Merrill College of Journalism.

And he kept telling his stories in his gentle tone.

"When there's no hiding from news, it's time for a haircut," he advised in a column late last year. "Getting a haircut—once a horrific, spirit-crushing event during the teenage years—is a safe haven for the news beleaguered. There, in the wrapped confines of your barber's or stylist's chair, you can sink away to a news-free zone. There, on your temporary throne, you are clipped and pampered by intimate hands." In addition to his wife of 33 years, an English teacher at Dulaney High School, he leaves a son, Ben Hiaasen, a Towson attorney; two daughters, Samantha Hiaasen, an assistant manager of the Pratt Street Barnes & Noble store in Baltimore, and Hannah Hiaasen, a craft associate at Apparatus in New York who lives in Brooklyn, NY; his brother, Carl, in Vero Beach, Fla.; two sisters, Judy Hiaasen of Plantation, Fla., and Barb Hiaasen of Davie, Fla.; and many nieces and nephews.

HONORING ALYCE GRIFFIN CLARKE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable

public servant from the Backwoods of Deovelente (a few miles northeast of Belzoni), to the Mississippi State Capital—Alyce Griffin Clarke, 1st African American female elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives in 1985.

In the backwoods of Deovelente, in the last house near the Yazoo River, a beautiful baby girl was born to the late Mr. Henry Griffin and Mrs. Fannie Alice Merriweather Griffin. They named this beautiful precious baby girl, Alyce Myrtle Griffin.

This young lady walked the dusty roads of Deovelente to Deovelente Elementary School, to Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, where she was baptized, to Mt. Arratt Methodist Church, and to the one store in the community. As a matter of fact, she walked everywhere she went. The family did not own a car as they were sharecroppers. She chopped and picked cotton as so many of us did. She still boasts about being able to pick 300 pounds before quitting time and teasing others still in the field.

As the years passed, Ms. Griffin graduated from McNair High School, Belzoni, Mississippi in 1957. She went on to graduate from Alcorn College and other universities. She later became Mrs. Alyce Griffin Clarke when she married the late Mr. L.W. Clarke. They became the proud parents of one son, Demarquis Clarke.

In 1985, Mrs. Alyce Griffin Clarke became the first African American female elected to the Mississippi Legislature.

Currently, Representative Alyce Griffin Clarke is still active in the same post where she first made history, and we are all very proud of her accomplishments.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Representative Alyce Griffin Clarke.

SALUTING COLONEL DAVID R. GIBSON

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I proudly salute Colonel David R. Gibson as he retires after 33 years of honorable service. Throughout his extraordinary military career, COL Gibson embodied the duty, honor, and loyalty that makes the U.S. Army the world's premier fighting force.

COL Gibson's commitment to investing his gifts, talents, and abilities in service of his nation is a deeply held creed that speaks to the generosity and activism of a true and devoted patriot. Throughout his career, he earned numerous academic and military accolades that garnered the respect and admiration of his peers. His resume tells the story of a man unafraid to embrace the challenges that forge the leaders our nation needs.

Retirement is meant to be celebrated and enjoyed. It is not the end of a career, but the beginning of a new adventure. I thank Colonel David R. Gibson for his service and dedication to our great nation. I proudly join his family, friends, and colleagues in wishing him nothing but the best for his richly-deserved retirement.