



## Howard C. Caldwell Jr.

July 18, 1925 - September 11, 2017

Howard Clay Caldwell Jr., 92, passed on to his heavenly home on September 11 at 5:27 a.m. surrounded by his loved ones.

A lifelong resident of Indianapolis, Howard was born July 18, 1925 in Irvington to Howard C. Caldwell Sr. and Elsie Rebecca (Felt). He enjoyed the small-town feel of growing up on Bosart Avenue and then Hawthorne Lane. Howard's love of reading, writing and speaking were apparent at an early age. Copies survive of his weekly neighborhood newspaper produced with a rubber stamp and an ink pad, sold for ½ cent per issue.

After graduating from Howe High School in 1944, Howard served in the Navy during World War II, spending a year as a radio operator aboard a minesweeper. He went on to graduate from Butler University in 1950 with a bachelor's degree in journalism and a masters in political science. His first job in journalism came in Hagerstown, Indiana at The Exponent, a weekly newspaper. After one year on the job, Howard was recalled to service during the Korean conflict in 1951, serving at the Great Lakes Naval Base, north of Chicago, as editor of a newsletter.

In 1952, Howard's broadcast career began in Terre Haute, Indiana at WTHI Radio/TV, channel 10. In carrying out his duties as a reporter, Howard ran across an Indiana State student named Helen Lynn Gruenholz, whom he met and dated. On March 20, 1955, the two married at First Baptist Church in Terre Haute. Before Howard passed, he and Lynn celebrated 62 years of marriage. Howard affectionately referred to Lynn as "Linnie," and in his last years, enjoyed staring at Linnie's engagement photo. Howard and Lynn were regulars at Indianapolis Indians baseball games and Butler basketball games. They also attended concerts and theatre productions, taking joy whether they were at Clowes Hall or Radio City Music Hall. The two simply desired to spend time together, and in later years, sat side by side on their couch watching the news, the weather and sports events.

Howard's 35-year Indianapolis broadcast career began in 1959 when Bob Gamble hired him as an anchorman at WFBM, known now as WRTV, Channel 6. In 1965, Howard was sent on a month-long assignment with photographer Les Walden to the Far East. Before embarking, Indira Gandhi was elected Prime Minister of India, and a request was submitted for an interview. Upon arrival, the interview was granted, and Howard became the first American journalist to interview Madame Gandhi. The interview was used

nationally on the NBC "Today" program. Also, his documentary on hunger in India led to a 1967 Indianapolis Press Club Award.

A life-long Indianapolis Indians baseball fan, Howard chose to celebrate his later birthdays with his children and grandchildren at home ballgames. Rarely, if ever, did Howard leave a game before its conclusion. Also a life-long Butler Bulldogs fan, one of Howard's greatest thrills was seeing Butler play in the Final Four of the NCAA tournament in Indianapolis in 2010. Eighty-four years of age at the time, Howard eagerly arose in the early hours to wait in line to fill out an application for the coveted tickets.

Howard holds memberships in several civic organizations and has been a member of the Butler University Board of Trustees. He was a member of the Sigma Chi social fraternity at Butler, an organization in which he remained active and through which he developed and maintained life-long friendships. Howard was inducted into the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame in 1991, whose write-up of Howard's career was a useful resource in compiling his life journey. Howard was a member of the Service Club of Indianapolis, a professional/business group of war veterans. He is a former president of the Indianapolis Press Club and Central Indiana Chapter of Sigma Delta Chi, Society of Professional Journalists. Howard had many other honors, but what he most treasured was family and friendships.

In the midst of his broadcast career, Howard found time to author two books: Tony Hinkle, Coach for all Seasons, a biography of the long-time Butler coach; and The Golden Age of Indianapolis Theaters, a history of theatre productions in downtown Indianapolis. Howard also wrote the text for Indianapolis, a book of photography by Darryl Jones.

Howard was preceded in death by his parents Howard and Elsie, a step-mother Bertha Lugar Caldwell, his mother-in-law Helen Lynn (Arrington) and father-in-law Albert Gruenholz; a sister Virginia ("Gigi") Caldwell; brother-in-law Herman Gruenholz and a granddaughter Emily Lynn Hingst. He is survived by his wife Lynn, three daughters and their spouses, Dan and Tracy Reidy, Bill and Ginny Hingst, and Rick and Susan Hutchins; 7 grandchildren, Sean Reidy, Rebecca Reidy and Michael Reidy, Jack (Monica) Hingst and Katie Hingst, Patrick Fountain and Benji Fountain; three step-siblings, Richard (Char) Lugar, Tom (Sally) Lugar and Ann Macrum; and, first cousin Cliff Browder.

The family wishes to extend its deepest gratitude to "fourth daughter" Amy Kelly, the third-floor staff at Kesslerwood Place and the Hospice Care team. All provided Howard with compassionate and expert care. Their kindness will never be forgotten.

Visitation will be Thursday, September 14, 2017 from 2:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. and Friday, September 15, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. until the time of service at 11:00 a.m. at Castleton United Methodist Church, 7101 Shadeland Avenue. Howard will be laid to rest at Crown Hill Mausoleum with the U.S. Navy providing military honors.

Contributions in Howard's memory may be submitted to Castleton United Methodist Church, the Alzheimer's Association or Butler University. Final care and arrangements are

entrusted to Shirley Brothers Fishers-Castleton Chapel.

# Cemetery Details

## Crown Hill Cemetery

700 W. 38th St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46208

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 14. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Castleton United Methodist Church  
7101 Shadeland Ave  
Indianapolis, IN 46256

## Visitation

SEP 15. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Castleton United Methodist Church  
7101 Shadeland Ave  
Indianapolis, IN 46256

## Funeral Service

SEP 15. 11:00 AM (ET)

Castleton United Methodist Church  
7101 Shadeland Ave  
Indianapolis, IN 46256

# Tribute Wall

TB

“ Dear Lynn - I was so sorry to hear about Howard's passing. My mom sent me the obituary from the newspaper up there so I would know - I have lived in Georgia for many years now. When I think of you, I remember the very special relationship you two always seemed to have. I know he will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Sincerely, Tammy (Replogle) Bowman

Tammy Bowman - September 19, 2017 at 08:07 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Shirley Brothers Mortuaries & Crematory - September 19, 2017 at 10:14 AM

BP

“ A friend for 70 years. Although our conversation have been infrequent over the last couple of years I have thought of our friendship often. It started as roommates in the Sigma Chi House located of 46th and continued through out the years. When at Butler I would occasionally stay at his parents home on weekends, followed on Sunday with a softball game. It is a sad day knowing my friend has left. Bob Pape, Rho '51

Bob Pape - September 14, 2017 at 05:33 PM

KW

“ My sympathies to the Caldwell family. Howard was a wonderful human being who made a great impact on my life during my teen-age years. Everything from teaching me how to tie a tie for the first time, to taking my brother and I to Indianapolis Indian baseball games, to writing a recommendation for me to be able to pledge the Sigma Chi fraternity at Indiana University. We were so fortunate to be neighbors with your family during those years and to have the opportunity to spend quality time with Howard. He was a giving, caring, compassionate, positive person who had a great impact on my life that I have been so thankful for. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

Keith Woodhouse

Keith Woodhouse - September 12, 2017 at 12:52 PM



*We are saddened by Howard's passing. He will be truly missed. He was a remarkable person. Love to the family. Peggy Sabens*

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**Peggy Sabens** - September 13, 2017 at 07:44 PM