



Steven C Olin

September 24, 1953 - March 13, 2019

Eureka, IL - Steven C. Olin, 65, of Eureka, a former longtime copy editor for the Journal Star, died unexpectedly March 13, 2019, at his home.

Born Sept. 24, 1953, in Princeton to Burton and Evelyn Olin, he is survived by his mother of Princeton; one brother, David, and one niece, Amy, both of Alto Pass.

He was preceded in death by his father, grandparents and several aunts and uncles.

attended Ohio Grade School, then moved with his family to Princeton in January 1965, when he was 12 years old. He attended Logan Jr. High School prior to entering Princeton High School. Steve graduated from Princeton High School, attended Illinois Valley Community College and studied history at Illinois State University, receiving a bachelor's degree in 1975 and a master's degree in 1976.

Steve began his first and only job as a copy editor and page designer for the Journal Star on Halloween night 1977, thinking that it might be interesting work. Never able to sleep well, he also figured the night shift would suit him. Little did he realize the copy desk would become his professional passion and that he would become a newsroom legend. Over the next three decades, he

entertained, infuriated and inspired scores of rookie journalists and grizzled veterans alike.

His encyclopedic knowledge of almost any subject, near-total recall of central Illinois events and obsessive attention to detail made him a perfect fit for a job in which finding and correcting errors is paramount. Not surprisingly, he also played a mean game of chess, having competed for the IVCC Chess Club. His expertise ran the gamut from 17th century battles to World War II to personal investing to battery chargers, from water heater maintenance to historic South Pole expeditions. No subject was too obscure or unworthy for Steve to pursue.

Steve was proud of being an active member of the Peoria Newspaper Guild, holding various leadership positions. As president from 1981 to 1983, he led contract negotiations with Journal Star management. Guild members recall that he once called a meeting to order so enthusiastically that the gavel broke. He remained a strong advocate for labor unions his entire working life and beyond. Steve retired in February 2007. He remarked often both before and after retirement how truly privileged he felt to have worked with so many talented and dedicated journalists and friends in his nearly 30 years at the paper.

In retirement, Steve became a regular fixture on Facebook, entertaining friends and former colleagues with his insightful, incisive and often barbed comments and posts. He loved a good Facebook argument, especially about politics.

Above all, Steve loved spending time with his family. Many of his vacations were enjoyed with Evelyn, Dave and Amy boating and fishing in southern Illinois, as well as special holidays at his mother's home in Princeton when everyone could get together. He adored Amy, and it was important to him that

she get a good college education.

Funeral services will be held Monday, April 1, at Norberg Memorial Home in Princeton. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. to noon, with services to follow. Officiated by Father Thomas Taylor of Peoria, IL. Graveside services will be in Limerick Cemetery at 1 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Steve's niece, Amariah "Amy" Olin, to establish a college education fund. Memorials may be sent to Norberg Memorial Home 701 E. Thompson St. Princeton, IL, 61356.

To express online condolences, visit www.norbergfh.com

Cemetery Details

Limerick Cemetery

Kasbeer, IL

Tribute Wall

BO

“ I had planned on going to Steve’s funeral today but came down with flu over weekend. We went to Princeton High School together but were never friends until we became Facebook friends. I found myself looking forward to his “take” on what was going on in the world. We agreed on politics and I loved his quick wit. Heck, I even got a kick from his constant rebuke of my Facebook posts by posting his “Slopes” research on the topic I had posted. RIP Steve. No more wretched winter weather for you! Prayers for his family and friends.



Becky (Wood) Okerberg - April 01, 2019 at 06:51 AM

SS

“ Steve was one of the most interesting people to talk to, you never knew what bit of contemporary or historical knowledge was going to pour forth in the conversation. He had one of the most sharpest, satirical wits of anyone I've known and his personal stories of both work and retirement were always looked forward to. You will be sorely missed, Steve.

Scott A. Shepler - March 31, 2019 at 04:06 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Steven C Olin.



March 29, 2019 at 08:37 AM

MC

“ I was a classmate of Steve's in Ohio in 1963! He was a fun kid back then and very smart. The kind of kid that you expected to become a scientist. RIP Steve.

Marge Thomas Christensen - March 28, 2019 at 03:55 PM

JK

“ I work at the grocery store where Steven shopped. He was funny and quiet and I enjoyed his stories. He will be missed.

Jennifer Kozik - March 28, 2019 at 01:18 PM

MM

“ Steve was one of the first people at the Journal Star to truly befriend me. We discovered we had many common interests: chess, history, chess, Star Wars, and chess. We loved to pick on him on the copy desk, and it got under his skin sometimes, but he always recovered very quickly. Best of all, he cared about you and was a good friend. And he cared oodles about the paper. You always knew a quality product would emerge under his watch.

Michael Miller - March 28, 2019 at 12:07 PM

OS

“ Steve was truly one of a kind. We all should live our lives in our own unique ways. Thanks for letting me be a part of it, Steve.

Omar Sofradzija - March 28, 2019 at 09:09 AM