JOHN H. RICH, JR.
JLS 1943, 96
(1917-2014)

CAPE ELIZABETH -- John Hubbard Rich, Jr., veteran NBC News war correspondent and Maine native, died on Wednesday, five weeks after the death of his wife, Doris Lee, of 60 years. He was 96. Born August 5, 1917, in the summer camp that was built by his father and still stands today on Hannaford Cove in Cape Elizabeth, he grew up in Portland just behind the present-day Ballard Park and attended Deering High School (35) and Bowdoin College (’39). At Bowdoin, he was editor-in-chief of the school paper, president of his fraternity, and captain of the tennis team.

He started his career as a reporter with the Kennebec Journal in Augusta after college and joined the Portland Press Herald about a year later. He got his start as a war correspondent even before the war began when, as a reporter for the Press Herald, he interviewed the survivors of the destroyer USS Reuben James, the first U.S. warship sunk in World War II, five weeks before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

With the outbreak of the war, he parlayed his college French major into a commission with the U.S. Marine Corps, exchanging French for Japanese, which he learned at the Navy Language School in Boulder, Colo. [Actually the school was located at the University of Colorado, and was one of several classified secret schools at the CU campus during WWII.]

Immediately upon the close of the war in the Pacific, he returned to Japan as a correspondent for the International News Service. He contacted the families of some of his former prisoners of war, traveling on his own to one family, who became lifelong friends, to tell them that the son and husband whom they had buried was alive, in U.S. custody, and would be returning home soon. He covered the International War Crimes Tribunal in Tokyo, interviewed ‘Tokyo Rose,’ and was once called upon to serve as impromptu interpreter for wartime Prime Minister Gen. Hideki Tojo and his American lawyer.

Under the occupation rule of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, the Emperor of Japan, historically considered... divine... was 'encouraged’ to go out among his people. More than 40 years later, John wrote for the Boston Globe: “It was mid-February 1946. The Tokyo cold penetrated our war correspondents' uniforms as we waited in the jeeps we had driven from the Foreign Correspondents Club a few blocks away. At precisely 9 a.m. the imperial motorcade snaked slowly out of the trees shrouding the entrance to the inner palace and wound back around itself as it crossed the stone arches of the famous double bridge spanning the moat. First came serious-faced security guards in elaborate uniforms and visor caps riding antique motorcycles with sidecars. Black limousines followed carrying palace officials, and then came Emperor Hirohito in a vehicle with the 16-petal chrysanthemum imperial crest. He looked small, frail and very lonely. Could this be the man our rifle and machine-gun fire on as they hurled themselves into our rifle and machine-gun fire on Iwo Jima. His bravery earned him the Bronze Star. He remained in the Marine Corps Reserve, attaining the rank of Major.

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John Rich (l) With Irving R. Levine in Korea during the peace talks.

While starting a family, he covered the French war in Indochina, the 1955 Argentine revolution, making the first radio broadcast from revolutionary headquarters in Mendoza, the violent uprising of the forces of Patrice Lumumba in the Belgium Congo, and the raising of the Iron Curtain in Berlin, where his family of four children, two born in Germany, lived 200 yards from the barbed wire.

A reassignment to Paris proved hardship duty after the outbreak of the Algerian Revolution and the subsequent inhospitality of his miffed French host who temporarily refused to renew his press credentials after a speech at the National Press Club in Washington in January 1961 where he dared to say that France faced the 'very real possibility' of civil war over the Algerian crisis. January 1961 was not lost altogether, however, as that month he bought, for $6,000, Bates Island in Casco Bay, his refuge and great love for the rest of his life.

From France, the family moved to Tokyo where, as NBC's Senior Correspondent in Asia, for more than a decade he covered the war in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia and saw all of them for his book, Deciphering them for his book, Deciphering

year later, he accompanied Nixon's trip to China. Following that historic visit, in 1974, he was awarded the Peabody Award, the Overseas Press Club Award for 'Best reporting from Asia in any medium,' and an honorary degree from Bowdoin College at the age of 56.

At his Bowdoin 50th Reunion address in 1989, he said: "My job as a reporter gave me a chance to live in many parts of the world. It made me a realist, but please don't think it made me cynical. All the news is not bad. One simple lesson was driven home to me time after time. When one gets to know people, whatever their background, nationality or racial origin, they are basically alike. Penetrate the surface differences and you learn that they all want about the same things that we do: freedom from want, from fear; freedom to be independent; to have opportunity; to live lives without excessive government interference; a chance to give their children good educations.

I'm reminded of Hong Kong. My wife was riding in a taxicab.

"Where are you from?" the driver asked in halting English. "America," she said. He paused a moment, thought, and then said, "Lucky.""

John and D. Lee lived in the moment. “One of my favorite Japanese haiku has to do with time. The haiku is that unusual form of poetry of only 17 syllables, 5-7-5. It goes like this: 'Oh, so this is all - and she and I had counted on a thousand years.'"

John is survived by his daughter, Barbarine Rich, and her husband, Toshio Okumura, of Boston, Mass., by his son, John H. Rich III, and his wife Joanne Rich, of Falmouth, by his son, Whitney Rich, and his wife Kumiko Umemoto of Tokyo, Japan, by his son, Nathaniel Rich, and his wife Ming Hsu of Hong Kong, China; by his brother-in-law, Ralph Halstead, and his wife Alice Halstead of Hemet, Calif.; and by grandchildren Dylan, Madelaine, Malcolm, Johnny, and Helene.

Spoken with Pride

My father, Kurao Tsuchiya, would have enjoyed reading The Interpreter, as do my wife and myself. He spoke with pride of his days in Boulder contributing to the war effort.

Keep up the good work.

Howard Tsuchiya
Son of Tsuchiya Sensei

Elizabeth Jane Levine
JLS 1944 WAVE
June 7, 1922-May 20, 2014

Elizabeth J. "Betty" Levine, 91, née Elizabeth Jane Billett, widow of noted Japanese labor relations expert, Solomon B. Levine, died on May 20, 2014, in Madison, Wisconsin of natural causes.

Born in Lewistown, Pennsylvania, Betty received her BS in chemistry from Pennsylvania State University in 1942, a certificate from the Harvard-Radcliffe Business Program in 1947, and her MA in industrial relations from the University of Illinois in 1965. She met Solomon ("Sol") Levine in 1943, while both were learning Japanese at the Navy Japanese Language School in Boulder, Colorado. They were married while still in the U.S. Navy during WWII.

Betty's professional career began as a Junior Chemist for the Food and Drug Administration from 1942 to 1945. During World War II, she also worked as a translator for military intelligence. After the war, she became the associate director of the Harvard-Radcliffe Management Training Program from 1947 to 1948. From 1965 to 1969, she served as the Assistant Director of the Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations at the University of Illinois. Betty then worked as the Assistant to the Chairman in the Department of Psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison from September 1969 to July 1987 where she was the first non-faculty member to be tenured. At her retirement, a room was named in her honor. Betty was also a passionate activist during the Civil Rights movement, and a volunteer for the Democratic Party.


Preceding her in death were her father Irving S. Billett, mother Bertha S. Billett, brother William Billett, and husband Solomon B. Levine.

She is survived by her four children author Jan Levine Thal, musician Samuel B. Levine, composer Michael A. Levine, and Judge Elliott M. Levine; and seven grandchildren, Jeremy Thal, Sean Levine, Sybil Levine, Mariana Barreto, Reed Levine, Joshua Levine, and Zoe Levine.

http://www.informedchoicefunerals.com/obituary/125067/Elizabeth-Levine/
Golden L. Faris
USMC, OLS 5/12/45-

Golden Leslie Faris 89; Indianapolis; passed away June 7, 2011. Born January 8, 1922 in Indian Springs, IN to Golden Wesley and Luna Pearl Lewis Faris. Schooling: Ben Davis HS, Indiana University and the Japanese Language School at University of Colorado and in Stillwater, OK. Golden served in the U.S. Marine Corps in the South Pacific during WWII, survived 4 landings, served as a Japanese translator and received a field commission. He was also a Korean War veteran, became a commanding officer in 1960 and retired a Colonel. Golden's career at the Indianapolis Star began in the mail room and spanned over 50 years between active military duty periods. Golden retired as Production Director in 1996 and was highly sought after as an industry consultant. Golden was a 32-Degree Mason of Lodge 162; Scottish Rite, Fraternal Order of Eagles and Murat Shrine member; Life Member of Military Officers of America and Marine Corps Reserve; and held other significant community roles. In his youth, he was also a successful Golden Gloves fighter. Survivors: Deloris, devoted wife of 69 years; brother, Bob; son, Ron; loving grand- and great-grandchildren. He is preceded in death by son, Ron; loving fighter. Survivors: Deloris, successful Golden Gloves Marine Corps Reserve; and held Military Officers of America and Degree Mason of Lodge 162; sought after as an industry Director in 1996 and was highly active military duty periods. spanned over 50 years between began in the mail room and career at the Indianapolis Star commanding officer in 1960 and a Korean War veteran, became a Japanese language officer and recipient of the Iwo Jima Medal. He was a reservist after the war and wore a Marine Corps baseball cap until his death.

Brain began his career as a teacher in Yakima, but quickly moved into administration. He received his M.A. in education from Central Washington State College in 1950 and his Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1957.

He became the state’s youngest school superintendent in 1953 when he was hired by the Bellevue school district. In 1959, Time magazine dubbed him “the fastest-rising educator in the U.S. public school system.” It recounted how Brain had put together “a $45 million system of eleven elementary, three junior high and two senior high schools in a community that was little more than a little-red-schoolhouse hamlet before World War II” as well as “some of the most interesting U.S. public experiments in setting up ungraded classes and grouping children according to ability.”

Into the national spotlight Brain’s hiring as superintendent of the Baltimore public schools in 1960 took him across the country and into the national spotlight. He served four years in that role during the tumultuous time following court-ordered school desegregation.

The Baltimore Public Schools online history notes that Brain had been on the job only a few months when a Baltimore student walked out of the Bible reading that was part of opening exercises at his junior high, and virtually every other school in the United States. His mother, Madalyn Murray (later, Madalyn Murray O’Hair), took her case against prayer and Bible reading in the schools to the Supreme Court, where she won in June 1963.

He is survived by his wife, Harriet, of Ellensburg, son George of Tacoma and daughter Marylou Seeman of Spokane. A private family service will be held Saturday at the I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Ellensburg.

The service will include military honors in recognition of Brain’s service in the Marine Corps during World War II. He was a Japanese language officer and recipient of the Iwo Jima Medal. He was a reservist after the war and wore a Marine Corps baseball cap until his death.

Brain’s influence was felt not only outside the state, but also outside the country. With Brain’s support, Orlich traveled to Manila, Singapore, Bangkok and Rangoon, working with international schools in Southeast Asia on behalf of the College of Education.

“The international schools would send people to Pullman to get masters and doctorates, and we would send faculty there for training,” he said.

The legacy of that involvement lives on in WSU’s

Longtime WSU Dean, Educator, JLS 1944
George Brain dies

PULLMAN, Wash. — George Bernard Brain, the longtime dean of the Washington State University College of Education who influenced public education nationwide, died last week at age 92.

He was preceded in death by son, Bob; son, Ron; loving fighter. Survivors: Deloris, successful Golden Gloves Marine Corps Reserve; and held Military Officers of America and Degree Mason of Lodge 162; sought after as an industry Director in 1996 and was highly active military duty periods. spanned over 50 years between began in the mail room and career at the Indianapolis Star commanding officer in 1960 and a Korean War veteran, became a Japanese language officer and recipient of the Iwo Jima Medal. He was a reservist after the war and wore a Marine Corps baseball cap until his death.

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In 1964, Brain returned to his home state to become WSU’s dean of the College of Education and summer school director. He had just been elected president of the American Association of School Administrators. In his resignation from Baltimore, he cited his desire to focus on writing, research and the training of secondary school personnel.

Influence in state, nation, beyond

He did more than make sure school administrators were prepared and mentored. He got them jobs. A phone call from George Brain was a job applicant’s ticket to the top.

“The stories are all true, he was very influential in our state and nation,” said Clinical Associate Professor Gene Sharratt.

Sharratt directs WSU’s 15-year-old superintendent certification program, which prepares two-thirds of Washington’s top school administrators. Like Ray, the program’s founding director, Sharratt remembers Brain’s intelligence, caring and strength of will.

“George was on my dissertation committee, liked my study and told everyone else to like the study,” Sharratt said.

“Needless to say, the committee liked the study!”

Don Orlich, a retired professor of education, said Brain made sure that educational administration faculty members worked closely with school districts. Orlich recalled being dispatched by Brain to help Walla Walla administrators rework a failed grant application, which was approved on the second try.

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[Ed. Note: The Solomon and Elizabeth Levine Papers were donated to the Archives on July 19, 2000, and is organized, processed and available. Its finding aid can be found on Rocky Mountain Online Archives http://rmoa.unm.edu/. References to the Levines can be found in issues #05, #35, #53, 61a, #68a, #106, #112, #121, #128, #151, #182, and #210. They were active and generous supporters of the project.]
Millard William Jasper Brain (1906 - 1980) was a professional biologist and writer. His interest in nature started when his father gave him a microscope at the age of 11. He later realized the importance of satisfying his own curiosity and passed on what he knew to others.

Climate: "With twilight's shadows upon the hills, the rain arrived, hesitantly at first, then in drenching windblown sheets heralding the arrival of a great event. Trees tossed and strained in roaring gusts of driving showers, but soon the downpour subsided and there was no further fanfare."

Crabs: "The Northeast Kingdom has every wonderful thing — except blue claw crabs. New Englanders are vociferous in support of the lobster, but must give way when matched against a Chesapeake blue claw, the world's most delectable seafood. I stand my ground on that."


Weather: "With twilight's shadows upon the hills, the rain arrived, hesitantly at first, then in drenching windblown sheets heralding the arrival of a great event. Trees tossed and strained in roaring gusts of driving showers, but soon the downpour subsided and there was no further fanfare."

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