

NEWS/OBITUARIES

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Pulitzer winner dies at age 81

By Darlene Superville
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

Satirist Art Buchwald, who turned his infectious wit on the life of Washington and then on his own failing health, is dead at 81.

Buchwald's son, Joel, said his father passed away from kidney failure at his home late Wednesday.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist and author chronicled the life and times of Washington for four decades, then cheated death and laughed in its face with a final year that medical science said he wasn't supposed to get.

"I'm having a swell time," he said of dying. "The best time of my life."

Buchwald described his earlier decision to forgo dialysis and let himself die as a liberating one.

"The thing is, when you make your choice, then a lot of the stress

is gone. Everything is great because you accept that you are the one who made the choice."

But when death didn't come, Buchwald wrote that he had to scrap his funeral plans, rewrite his living will, buy a new cell phone and get on with his improbable life.

"I also had to start worrying about Bush again," he deadpanned.

Jack Valenti, former chairman and chief executive of the Motion Picture Association of America, recalled Buchwald's humor. The two had been friends since 1964.

"What Art had was the gift of laughter, that's a rarity today," Valenti said Thursday. "He could take simple ordinary things and make you laugh. God knows all of us need that. I've been with him in all kinds of situations, good and bad, triumph and tragedy but Art always was able to see a little wisp of humor in everything."

Included in the list was whether the state could offer tax credits to landowners who sell their property for the project, if landowners could be offered 150 percent of their land's value for the project, and how the state could help counties with any costs they have to cover in infrastructure or roads in and around the proposed toll road, Smith said.

Legislators told Daniels they need a better idea of where the toll road will be located. The governor provided a map when he proposed the project in November, which shows a miles-wide route in Johnson County between State Roads 44 and 252, south of Franklin.

The governor said he would make the information a priority, Walker said. Daniels did not give a timeline of when a specific route would be released.

Discussion centered on making sure that legislators could get answers before the project moves forward, Walker said.

The group discussed requiring that a list of questions be answered before allowing a private company to bid for the rights to build and maintain the road and collect tolls, Walker said.

For example, legislators must know that there will be money to help local governments cover any costs related to the beltway, Walker said.

Walker still has questions, but he said the governor listened to his concerns and gave him the answers he could.

He feels he can go to the governor's office or the state department of transportation for future questions or concerns, he said. Walker represents Nineveh, Blue River, Needham and Franklin townships in Johnson County.

Foley said the meeting is part of the typical legislative process. He has said he will likely support the project. Foley represents Union and Hensley townships.

SPEEDWAY

Mary Ann Buster

Mary Ann Buster, 50, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2007.

She was a resident of Speedway.

She was born Sept. 27, 1956, in Johnson County to Richard Keith Buster and Wilma (Lyons) Burkhardt. Survivors include three sons, Ryan K. (Stephanie) Buster, Kyle M. Buster and Chad B. Buster, all of Indianapolis; her mother, Wilma (Lyons) Burkhardt of Bargersville; and a sister, Carol Lynn Sabellico of San Francisco.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John Buster, who died in 2000; her father, Richard K. Burkhardt; a brother, Rick; and a sister, Melinda.

Mary Ann earned her medical assistant certificate and worked at St. Francis Hospital, West Side Immediate Care Center and various doctors' offices.

She was a very loving mother, sister and daughter and will be greatly missed by all.

Calling will be from 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday at Wilson St. Pierre Funeral Service & Crematory, Greenwood Chapel, 481 W. Main St., with a memorial service to begin at 5 p.m.

Online condolences may be sent to the Buster family at www.wilsonstpierre.com.

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Franklin Ernest E. Walker Jr., 81
Greenwood
Mary Jo Dailey, 70
Benjamin Sinclair Givin, 84
William Joe Myers II, 45
Indianapolis
Edgar W. Griggs Jr., 55
Patricia J. Kistner, 74
Dorothea M. Shrout, 90
Elsewhere
Mary Ann Buster, 50

sister, Donna Kay (Bobby) Kasier; and five grandchildren.

A funeral service will be conducted at 12:30 p.m. Saturday at Hoosier Harvest Church in Martinsville. Friends may call from 10 a.m. until service time Saturday at the church. A graveside service will be conducted at 11 a.m. Monday in the Ben Franklin Mausoleum at Forest Lawn Memory Gardens in Greenwood.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hoosier Harvest Church, 4085 Leonard Road, Martinsville, IN 46151.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Forest Lawn Funeral Home, Greenwood.

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Bill lived and prospered most of his life on Indianapolis' southside and in Greenwood. He attended Perry Meridian High School and served his country in the U.S. Navy.

Associated with Lenders Recovery business, he was also an entrepreneur and avid 1960s automobile enthusiast who enjoyed restoring classic "muscle cars."

Top among Bill's favorite activities were spending time with his family and lending a hand to those blessed with his friendship. He had many inspiring gifts, such as his indomitable persistence, uncompromising integrity, a terrific work ethic and a special capacity for spreading joy, all of which rewarded everyone fortunate enough to be around him.

Bill leaves the legacy of a loving family. He is survived by the love of his life, wife Kathleen Linn Myers; their children, Tyler Lee, Cassidy Kristine and Cameron Joseph Myers; and a daughter, Misty Smith.

Bill is also deeply missed by his close relatives Karen and Walt Ryan, Chet and Pat Goins, Terry and Marcia Goins, Brian Myers, Patty Myers, Kim and Shane Ludwig and Tony Myers; nieces and nephews; and a legion of friends too many in number to list.

Funeral services will be conducted 2 p.m. Saturday at Forest Lawn Memory Gardens and Funeral Home, 1977 S. State Road 135, Greenwood. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

Donations in Bill's name made to Riley Hospital for Children are welcome.

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MYERS

(Dunn) Richardson; and her husband, William Thomas Shrout.

A service will be conducted at 11:30 a.m. Saturday at G.H. Herrmann Greenwood Funeral Home, 1605 S. State Road 135. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. today at the funeral home. Burial will be at Forest Lawn Memory Gardens in Greenwood.

Memorial contributions may be made to University Heights Alzheimer's Unit, 1380 E. County Line Road South, Indianapolis, IN 46227.

FRANKLIN

Ernest E. 'Bud' Walker Jr.

Ernest E. "Bud" Walker Jr., 81, died Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2007, at Johnson Memorial Hospital in Franklin. He was a resident of Franklin.

He was born Sept. 14, 1925, in Lakeland, Fla.

He had been a carpenter/millwright for the United Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners for 50 years. He had been the business agent for the District Council of United Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners for 10 years.

He served in the U.S. Navy. He was a member of Bargersville Masonic Lodge as a 32nd-degree Mason, Scottish Rite member and Shriner. He enjoyed working on all types of cars.

Survivors include his wife, Opal Osborne Walker of Franklin, whom he married Aug. 30, 1947, in Southport; six children, Steven Eugene (Mart) Walker of Greenwood, Christie Watson of Fountaintown, Beekie Sue (Rick) Stumpf of Whiteland, Bonnie Jo (Wayne) Ott of Greenwood, Vickie Booher of Franklin and Randy (Cathy) Walker of Greenwood; two sisters, Ruth Byers of Florida and Wilma Dunnigan of Indianapolis; four brothers, Norman and Kenneth Walker, both of New Mexico, and Walter and Thomas Walker, both of Indianapolis; 14 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; and two great-step-grandsons.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Michael Walker; and his parents, Ernest E. Sr. and Dorothea Moore Walker.

A funeral service will be conducted at 11 a.m. Saturday at Jessen Funeral Home, 729 U.S. 31 North, Whiteland, with the Revs. Dane Sinn and John Young officiating