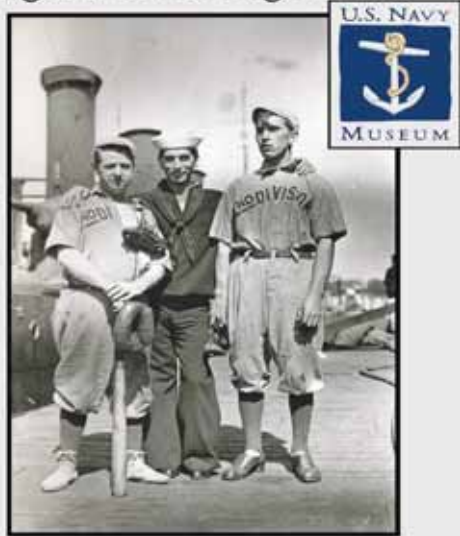


America's pastime and naval heritage
together in one neighborhood



**U.S. Navy
Museum**
open 9-5 M-F
10-5 weekends
and holidays
photo ID required
call 202 433 4882
for base access
www.history.navy.mil



Keep it in the Neighborhood.
Shop Locally.



www.capitalcommunitynews.com

Lutheran Church of the Reformation

212 East Capitol St, Washington, DC 20003

www.reformationdc.org

*Need a change of pace?
A fresh start for your the week?
Looking for meaningful service?*

Worship with us!

*Together we'll be renewed by
God's amazing grace.*

**Sunday services at
8:30am & 11:00am**

Christian Education at 9:45am

*Nursery and Childcare
available*



• A Reconciling in Christ Congregation •

In Memoriam

Bruce Robey A Local Homegrown Star

BY MARK SEGRAVES



Bruce and Adele Robey, July 31, 2009, at Christ Church, 620 G St. SE.

The Hill and our city have lost a good friend, a true visionary and pioneer. Bruce Robey, co-founder of Voice of the Hill newspaper and the H Street Playhouse, died Sept. 21 at the Washington Hospital Center after suffering a fatal heart attack. He was 65 years old.

Robey, a native Washingtonian, grew up in Anacostia before his family moved to Oxen Hill, Maryland, where he graduated from high school and then later from the University of Maryland. In 1975 Robey and his wife, Adele, moved to Capitol Hill and started a graphics company that eventually became Phoenix Graphics.

Civic duty was more than a line on his resume; Robey was always active in community affairs. From 2002-2003 Robey served as the president of the Capitol Hill Association of Merchants and Professionals. He was awarded the 2003 Capitol Hill Community Foundation's Community Achievement Award. He is survived by his wife, Adele; two daughters Julia Christian and Jennifer Ludwig; a sister, Kathy Hunter, and a brother, Bill Robey, as well as three grandchildren.

A memorial service is scheduled for Oct. 4 at 7 p.m. at the H Street Playhouse (1365 H St. SE). In lieu of flowers, donations should be sent to the Capitol Hill Community Foundation, 419 East Capitol St. SE,

Washington, DC 20003.

I didn't know Bruce as long as many people in the community did, but like anyone who met him, I knew him well enough to know that he was a compassionate and driven man committed to family and his community, whatever community he found himself in. Whether he was vacationing in South Carolina, "retiring" in West Virginia, serving in the Marines, or raising a family on Capitol Hill, Bruce was engaged and determined to make his mark.

Our neighborhood is a perfect example of how Bruce's impact will be felt for generations to come. He brought the neighbors of Capitol Hill into the digital era by creating an excellent community-based website. Voice of the Hill dot com gave Hill residents a place to gather without leaving their homes. It became a platform for news, information, gossip and the time honored tradition on the Hill of complaining about everything. Hill Talk was an on-line forum that sparked debate on every issue facing Ward 6 long before the listservs of today.

With the website came the newspaper. I don't think Bruce ever imagined himself the publisher of a newspaper, but he saw a need in the community and he filled it. That's the Bruce Robey I knew – a man who didn't let people tell him he couldn't or shouldn't

do something. If he decided to do something, he did it. When Bruce hired me to work for the Voice about 10 years ago, he wanted to use the disinfectant of the press to hold our local elected officials accountable.

Today Ward 6 boasts some of the most productive and accountable advisory neighborhood commissions in the District. It wasn't always that way. Many of the ANC commissioners who hold office today were inspired to run for office because the Voice made them more aware of what was happening in their community. Likewise, many of the old commissioners who abused their office are no longer in office, again, because Bruce was determined to inform the public.

Ward 6 Councilmember Tommy Wells knows all too well Bruce's determination to speak truth to power.

"Bruce never sugarcoated anything he said to elected officials," Wells said, "He was always straightforward and wincingly honest, which I found refreshing as I railed from the blows."

Wells says Robey was a true renaissance man living among us. "He grew up in Anacostia and had so many different interests," Wells said. "The fact that he could start a profitable newspaper from scratch, and he didn't do it as a young man, was extraordinary. He was also a fisherman and a musician; he was a renaissance man who was truly a local homegrown star."

But where Bruce and Adele really took a leap of faith was on H Street. Today H Street is a destination for the young and the hip; it's fast becoming the "New U" with restaurants, bars and theaters. Just last weekend thousands of people flocked to H Street as the neighborhood celebrated its sixth annual H Street Festival & Bazaar.

That's not how Bruce found H Street, but it is how he left it. In 2001 when Bruce and his wife Adele saw a void in the theater community, the Robeys stepped up to create the H Street Playhouse. They used their own money to buy the old French's Restaurant and a theater district was born.

Anwar Saleem of the H Street Main Street knows that H Street is

what it is today because of Bruce.

"Bruce had a vision. He was a trailblazer," Saleem says. "When there was no entertainment, he gave us that. He had the original vision. His dream was larger than the H Street Playhouse. He added his flavor to the pot."

Don Denton has been selling real estate on the Hill for 30 years. He first met Bruce in 1975. Denton knows the importance of having engaged neighbors like the Robeys.

"Bruce and Adele Robey are two of those most special Hill business people. They have not only raised their family here and operated their businesses here on the Hill for over 30 years, they have contributed mightily to the fabric of our community. Bruce stepped up to assume the Presidency of CHAMPS during two very pivotal years for the organization.

"When Bruce and Adele saw a need or an opportunity, they would risk their time and treasure to make it happen. They envisioned a second and complimentary newspaper for our community - and the Voice of the Hill was born. They felt that the arts were an essential ingredient of any growing and prosperous community. They invested in H Street long before it became the popular thing to do - and the H Street Playhouse (their dream) is still today a major anchor for that thriving commercial community."

Bruce not only knew the importance of community, he also knew the importance of family. It was a lesson he taught me one day as we rode across Capitol Hill in his pickup truck delivering copies of the Voice. As we were stopped at a traffic light, Bruce saw Adele walking across Lincoln Park.

"She brightens my every day, lad," he said with a smile, "Every man should be so lucky."

Bruce, you brightened my life and our city in ways that will continue to shine for many years. Every community should be so lucky.

Mark Segraves is a reporter and talk show host for WTOP radio, he worked for Voice of the Hill as a reporter from 2001-2003. He can be reached at msegraves@wtop.com. ★

Call us the strong, silent type.

We're not the type of bank that makes a lot of noise trying to convince you that we're worthy of your business. As one of the "20 Strongest Banks In America," we think our credentials speak for themselves.

For more than 120 years, The National Capital Bank of Washington has adhered to the principles of strength, integrity and unparalleled customer care. We're proud to be known as a bank that protects your hard-earned money while delivering value and professional service.

If you're searching for a secure place to put your money and a "hometown" approach to your banking needs, we'd love to have you in the family.

**TheStreet.com and Weiss Safety Ratings, July 2009*



316 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20003 • 202-546-8000

5228 44th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20015 • 202-966-2688

www.NationalCapitalBank.com



Banking.

Banking whenever, wherever, however you want.

Open a free Citibank® Checking Account with direct deposit and you'll have more ways to access your money from anywhere. Making banking more convenient and easier than ever.

To learn more, stop by your local Citibank branch today.

**BANKING ANYTIME, ANYWHERE
IN THE GREATER WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA**

- 2,574 fee-free ATMs
- Citi Mobile® banking - now also on the iPhone™
- Online banking with free bill payment services
- CitiPhone Banking® with 24/7 access

CAPITOL HILL BRANCH
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20003
(202) 548-5901
citibank.com

Citi never sleeps®



A regular checking account in the Citibank EZ Checking account is free of monthly maintenance fees and per check charges when there is a monthly direct deposit to the account. Persons under 18 years of age are not eligible. All accounts are subject to approval. Not all ATMs are owned or operated by Citibank and not all functions are available at all ATMs. ©2009 Citigroup Inc. Citibank, N.A. Member FDIC. Citibank, Citibank with Arc Design and Citi never sleeps are registered service marks of Citigroup Inc. Citi Mobile and CitiPhone Banking are registered service marks of Citigroup Inc. iPhone is a trademark of Apple Inc.