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Gabe Dalmath, former anchor, dies at age 60

Fernando Diaz
Staff writer

(September 16, 2006) — Gabe Dalmath was brave, said close friend Vicki Brown.

Mr. Dalmath, an avid sportsman, community servant and fixture of the WHEC-TV (Channel 10) newscast for almost 30 years, died Friday at Strong Memorial Hospital of kidney cancer. He was 60.

"He did everything the right way," said Rich Funke, a friend and colleague who met Mr. Dalmath at Long Island's WGBB radio station in 1971.

Five years later, the two began their careers in Rochester. "I was the sports guy and he was the news guy," said Funke.

Mr. Dalmath anchored the 6 and 11 p.m. newscasts for 25 years, the longest tenure in station history. He hosted the Muscular Dystrophy Association telethon for 23 years.

But for all the time he spent on camera, "he was kind of shy in public when people noticed who he was," said Brown. "The world knew him here in Rochester."

He was born Gabor Dalmath in Budapest, Hungary, at a tumultuous time in that nation's history. His father, Andrew, worked in the resistance and the family fled when he was 10, during the October Uprising of 1956, to Vienna and then to London.

Mr. Dalmath, an only child, his mother, Katalin, and his father then settled in Queens, where he graduated from high school and then enrolled in Hunter College.

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Irondequoit	He majored in economics with a concentration in international studies, said Brown, but spent his final year studying broadcast journalism.
Penfield	
Pittsford	Mr. Dalmath was drafted into the Army and spent much of his enlistment in Korea as an information officer.
Rochester	
Victor	After leaving the service, he worked in and around New York City before a station manager in Rochester hired him as the weekend anchor at WHEC-TV.
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Rochester Magazine	Mr. Dalmath loved sports and during the long winters spent virtually every weekend for two decades teaching skiing at Bristol and Swain, said Funke. When the weather warmed, Mr. Dalmath cycled, played tennis and windsurfed at Cape Hatteras, N.C., Canandaigua Lake and Grand Cayman Island.
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Insider	Mr. Dalmath signed off Dec. 31, 2004, and worked for a mortgage banking company before establishing Dalmath Associates, a communications and marketing firm, with his wife, Jean. They also formed a media research company about a year ago, said Brown.
ConXion	
ALSO ONLINE	
Help Center	Diagnosed with kidney cancer in June, Mr. Dalmath fought a "very private battle," said Funke.
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NIE Program	
Personals	In addition to his wife and mother, Mr. Dalmath is survived by his daughter Amanda, his brother- and sister-in-law Fred and Sharon Haskins and their two children, and his mother-in-law Marie Haskins.
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Crossword	A memorial service is scheduled for 4 p.m. Thursday at Asbury First United Methodist Church, 1050 East Ave., in Rochester. Burial will be private.
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