

Art Kent(1933 - 2018)

Arthur (Art) Kent Jr.
1933-2018

Arthur (Art) Kent Jr. passed away on Sept. 1, 2018, at home in Houston, TX. Kent was born in New York City on Feb. 11, 1933, to Arthur Louis Capurro and Julia Ruether Capurro. His father, Arthur Kent, became a NY Metropolitan Opera baritone; his uncle, Alfred Drake, was a five-time Tony Award winner. Art inherited a beautiful speaking voice meant for broadcasting.

Kent attended Williams College and joined Army Intelligence during the Korean War. After studying Chinese-Mandarin, he served in Korea, Japan, Okinawa and Formosa. Afterward, as a Salt Lake City police officer, he simultaneously began a career in broadcast journalism. News, reported with integrity, became his way of life. At NBC News, he was a news correspondent in Vietnam, Pittsburgh bureau chief and Middle East correspondent where he covered the assassination of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. He returned to NYC as a VP of NBC News Operations and Satellites. In 1986, he resumed reporting as National Security correspondent and was first on air with Oliver North's involvement in arms sales.

In 1988, he moved to Houston as VP of Communications for Continental Airlines. As a Theatre Under the Stars board member and later as head of public affairs for the Houston Symphony, he felt he had come home to music.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 29 years, Christina Johnson Kent; their daughter, Olivia Kent Moore (Michael), of Nashville, TN; his sister, Nancy Kent Eliot, of Germantown, N.Y.; two daughters of his first marriage, Julia Mays and Kelly Kent, of Salt Lake City; a son, Arthur Kent, of Denver, CO; and grandson, Alexander Mays.

Art often said his greatest personal happiness came in the last third of his life when he married Christina, a TODAY Show producer based in Washington, D.C. Together, they watched Olivia become a beautiful young woman and talented nurse.

Art Kent was an irreverent New Yorker and an incredibly smart man who never left his "cop" roots or musical background. People who worked with him appreciated his wisdom, each lesson gently and respectfully taught. He enjoyed a strong cup of coffee, menthol cigarettes, a good Manhattan and the company of tall, beautiful women. He became a journalist because he believed reporters told the truth. Fake news comes from those who make the news, not from those who report it.

Kent fought a brave and valiant battle against C.I.D.P., a rare autoimmune disease. A memorial service will be held in the Chapel at Chapelwood UMC (11140 Greenbay, Houston, TX 77024) Saturday, Sept. 15 at 11 a.m.

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