



Mr. Derek C. Gentile

May 27, 1955 - November 13, 2017

Derek C. Gentile, 62, of Great Barrington, died unexpectedly early Monday morning, November 13, 2017, at Berkshire Medical Center in Pittsfield.

He was born in North Adams on May 28, 1955, son of the late Joseph F. and Margaret A. (Palmer) Gentile. He attended Adams schools, graduating from Hoosac Valley High School with the Class of 1973. He then went on to earn his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Journalism from Northeastern University, Boston, in 1980.

Derek spent over 30 years as a reporter and columnist at the Berkshire Eagle, covering several communities and news departments.

He enjoyed reading, collecting comic books, playing soccer in his youth, and was an encyclopedic music and sports aficionado.

He is survived by his four sisters, Marybeth Chapman and her husband, Edward, of Arlington, TX; Melanie Gelaznik of Adams; Hilary Gentile of Manchester, CT; and Karla Ball and her husband, Douglass, of Bennington, VT;

3 nephews, including Kane Gelaznik, Kyle Gelaznik and Nicholas Chapman; as well as several cousins.

A Liturgy of Christian Burial celebrating Derek's life will be held on Saturday, Nov. 18th, at 10:00 AM in Notre Dame des Sept Douleurs Church, McKinley Square (Rte. 8) Adams. Rev. Steven Montesanti, Pastor, will officiate.

Burial will be private.

Calling hours at the PACIOREK FUNERAL HOME, 13 Hoosac St. Adams, will

be Friday from 4 to 7 PM.

Memorial donations may be made to The Guthrie Foundation, 2 Van Deusenville Rd. Great Barrington, MA 01230.

To leave a message of condolence, please go online to www.paciorekfuneral.com

Tribute Wall

RM

“ *Dereck was a sweet soul . I met him and never forgot his kindness .
Yes the shorts year round was a memory too. He made me laugh
You friend always
Robin*

Robin McDaniel - November 22, 2023 at 08:33 AM

PS

“ *Hil and family, Matt and I want you to know how sorry we are to
here of Derek's passing. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.*

Pam Storie - June 07, 2018 at 10:57 AM

LH

“ *The Berkshires will never ever be the same for me without seeing
my good pal, Derek. He was an adorable man at all times. We
always talked about baseball and as much as I thought I knew,
Derek could run circles around my knowledge. My favorite memory
of our time together was watching Prince perform for 3 hours at the
old Boston Garden. We had a blast! I will miss you, sweet Derek. ??*

Linda Hensel - June 07, 2018 at 10:57 AM

BL

“ *Every meeting I have had with Derek since high school has been
memorable and fun. How happy I am to have seen him just weeks
ago at Hancock Shaker Village. What passed between us then will
have me laughing as long as I live. My memories of Derek are vivid,
from high school until now. Rest In Peace, my friend! It has been a
true pleasure to know you.*

Barbara Lagowski - June 07, 2018 at 10:57 AM

SB

“ *My thoughts and prayers go out to the whole family. So sorry for your loss.*

Sue Barrentine - June 07, 2018 at 10:57 AM

PS

“ *"Death is but crossing the world, as friends do the seas; they live in one another still..." William PennHeartfelt sympathies Pam S. and Sons*

PAMELA SHERMAN - June 07, 2018 at 10:57 AM

DF

“ *Derek was our tie to the Berkshires, and especially to the Town of Adams where we lived until 1979. He was a true professional who could be counted on to write columns loaded with memories of our old home town. Rest in peace, Derek.*

Don & Joanne Filiault - June 07, 2018 at 10:57 AM

CS

“ *I'm so sorry to hear of Derek's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with his family. I first met Derek when I was a young selectman in the town of Lee and he was a young reporter sent to cover our meetings for the Eagle. I remember Derek for being a really pleasant person and an all-around great journalist. He was curious, tenacious, persistent, thoughtful, and most of all, always fair. The Berkshires have lost one of the good guys!*

Chris Salinetti - June 07, 2018 at 10:57 AM

CM

“ *So sorry to hear of Derek's passing. He was a wonderful soul.*

Carrie (Bercury) MacKinnon - June 07, 2018 at 10:57 AM

BF

“ I was so sorry to read of Derek's passing. My deepest Sympathy to the entire family.Derek had done so much with his life in spite of illness.I always read his articles and just enjoyed them so much and always looked forward to them. . He was such a talented man.I was especially proud that he came from our little town of Adams and had done so well.I was sad that he retired but that was certainly well deserved.Unfortunately, his retirement was cut way too short.My thoughts and prayers go to the entire family.Barbara Favreau, Adams, MA

Barbara Favreau - June 07, 2018 at 10:57 AM

WM

“ So sad to hear of Derek's passing. So young.He leaves great memories from HVHS as we seemed to always be in the same classes. Will never forget the numerous basketball games played and fun times we shared. RIP my friend.. Thoughts and prayers to the family...

Wadz Meczywor - June 07, 2018 at 10:57 AM

SM

“ A good friend, good company. Too soon passing but we are grateful for the time we knew him. Also an aficionado of the Lenox Merchants, always a barometer of local discernment and knowledge. Thanks for everything, Derek.Steve and Judy MooreFayetteville, PA

Steve and Judy Moore - June 07, 2018 at 10:57 AM

BD

“ To the Gentile Family, I did not know this man, But I heard so many good and positive things about him. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Bill DeSoldato - June 07, 2018 at 10:57 AM

KE

“ *What a great gift Derek was to the Berkshire community and the short industry. He will be missed by so many.*

Kathleen Ervin - June 07, 2018 at 10:57 AM

DC

“ *Dearest Derek, although I have never met you personally, your articles in the Berkshire Eagle always intrigued me. Not only were you a great journalist, you touched the human spirit. That is very special. I shall look for your bright star shining in the sky. Always wanted to be a journalist however my life led a different path. Bless you and your family forever...*

Diane Chamberlain - June 07, 2018 at 10:57 AM

GG

“ *Derek was a wonderful, kind soul and one of the most well-read people I know. When we worked together in the south county bureau of the Eagle in Great Barrington, I remember him telling me he wrote a paper in high school about Solzhenitsyn's "Gulag Archipelago." His teacher refused to believe he had read the book or written the paper himself. So typical for Derek, who was far smarter than he let on, and always at the ready to surprise the world. Rest in peace, my friend.*

Gina Gold - June 07, 2018 at 10:57 AM

PH

“ *Always my favorite journalist, be it sports or home town stories. He was a Berkshire County treasure. RIP Mr. Gentile.*

Patty Holmes-Alcombright - June 07, 2018 at 10:57 AM

AS

“ You will indeed be missed, Derek. I have loved reading your spirited articles - imbued with deep compassion - for decades. I was lucky to have met you in person some time ago. Rest in Peace.

Ann Spadafora - June 07, 2018 at 10:57 AM

LT

“ Derek was certainly a special person. He was very intelligent, exceptionally talented and unbelievably witty. He was just an all around likable guy who will be missed so much by friends, family and those who enjoyed his wonderful writing. Our hearts go out to you Mary, Melanie, Hilary and Karla. With love and sympathy, Lisa and Bob Tetlow

Lisa and Bob Tetlow - June 07, 2018 at 10:57 AM

DP

“ I grew up with Derek, or "OB" as we all called him in Adams. Had many memories. In the summer we'd get 5 guys in a car and drive to the Noel Field basketball court in North Adams to take on all comers in hoops. Spent many a times with Derek drinking beers and talking about his 2 favorite topics; sports and music. Lost touch with him over the years but really enjoyed reading his columns on line. So talented. Condolences to the Gentile family. He will be missed.

Dan Pause - June 07, 2018 at 10:57 AM

MB

“ Mary, Melanie, Hilary and Karla - I am sorry for your lost.

Marci Bratcher - June 07, 2018 at 10:57 AM

SM

“*There is no better mirror than an old friend". Derek, you were not only a great journalist but a truthful one from the heart. You were there when I needed guiding words and it made all the difference. I will always remember that and you. Blessings to you and your family. We have lost a man who spoke from the heart. RIP Derek. See you again sometime.*

Susan Massaconi - June 07, 2018 at 10:57 AM



“*I have many memories of Derek from years ago in our youth. I always remember him playing with toy soldiers (he had tons of them). He'd line them up and then destroy them in his version of war. Derek was the older brother, of my friend Mary. He often would bother us when we had sleep overs. I remember one particularly evening him waking us from a sound sleep yelling fire - it scared the "be Jesus" out of me, but Derek got some weird pleasure from scaring us. After HS I moved away and lost touch, but I kept up with Derek and his writings. I bought my brother in law one of Derek's books on sports for Christmas one year - and was proud to say I knew the author. Rest in peace Derek, and my deepest sympathies to his sisters - Mary, Mel, Hilary and Karla. He's in the arms of Peg and Joe in heaven.*

June 07, 2018 at 10:57 AM

HA

“*Derek, This is very surreal. Your loss brought back great memories of fun and friendship. I could go years without seeing you. When I did, you always had a friendly greeting and a smile. You were a kind, sage role model for compassion and common sense. Thanks for being so kind to a young, goofy kid trying to find her way out there! My sincere condolences to your family and friends. Helen Forfa Arnold*

Helen Arnold - June 07, 2018 at 10:57 AM

MW

“ *Rest in peace my friend!* ”

Marria Whittemore - June 07, 2018 at 10:57 AM

GP

“ *I first met Derek in 1986 and thought he was a little strange but as it turns out he was creative. His columns will be greatly missed. He always seem to give me a pick up with his wit.* ”

Ginny Petell - June 07, 2018 at 10:57 AM

LD

“ *I just spoke to you last week. I know now your pain is gone and you are at peace , you will leave a legacy of honor and true humanity , we will all miss and remember you .* ”

Lesley DAngelo - June 07, 2018 at 10:57 AM

SL

“ *"The Love so many felt for Derek shines brightly"* ”

Sally Larhette - June 07, 2018 at 10:57 AM

RB

“ *A good, gentle, kind, smart and very funny friend gone way too soon. Rest easy my friend, job well done.* ”

Robbie Harrington Brassard - June 07, 2018 at 10:57 AM

PC

“ To Derek's family. Words are sometimes inadequate to express feelings of someone who has passed. At the very least I would like to express my sadness at Derek's passing. I enjoyed him, his stories, his work ethics. I am sure there is a special place in heaven for him.

Pat Carlino - June 07, 2018 at 10:57 AM

NC

“ Hey, Uncle Derek. I'm sorry I didn't get to know you better before you left us, but you'll be happy to know your sisters are doing just fine . You had a beautiful service and a ton of people went to your wake . You're a very popular guy. Jeff and Tim gave amazing speeches to see you off, they miss you very much. I'm glad to know that your know longer in pain Everyone here misses you already, but now you can always catch a Springsteen concert where ever you are. See you later Uncle Derek, rest well.

Nick Chapman - June 07, 2018 at 10:57 AM

GC

“ Played ball with Derek at the Adams Youth Center a long time ago. He spoke highly of my mom and took the time to write a nice article about her after she passed away. For that, I will always be grateful.

glen chalmers - June 07, 2018 at 10:57 AM



“ RIP Derek, you will be greatly missed.

November 15, 2017 at 12:00 AM