



A journalism career was a natural for John Lynn. His father, sister, and one of his three brothers were journalists. Indeed, his sister has married a journalist whose father was in “the business.”

Jack was unique though. While all the others were involved in print journalism, Jack focused on TV news after a brief summer stint as an intern reporter for the Syracuse Post Standard.

He began his career path early on the Kings Park High School Herald eventually winning a Newsday award as an editorial writer for the Herald. He was even willing to do the unglamorous part of the business as a part-time printer’s “devil” at the Smithtown News.

That same determination and ambition surfaced at Long Island Cablevision where during summers and after graduation from the State University at Geneseo he worked, at times with no pay, carrying and operating sound equipment, manning TV cameras in studios and at one point atop the Nassau County Medical Center during a hurricane. He was essentially a writer but he learned the TV news business from the ground up.

Gradually building a network of former and present TV colleagues, he worked as a writer at several New York City TV stations and moved to CNN New York in 1989. Not long after he was transferred to the CNN Washington bureau where he rose from writer to director to producer and senior producer coordinating the Washington end of CNN broadcasts in the late afternoon and evening. He won an Emmy for his part in the coverage of 9/11.

When he died Nov. 22, 2004, there was an outpouring of tributes from CNN colleagues and the common thread was as one colleague put it, “a gentleman and a pro, calm under fire, always with a good sense of humor and get it done attitude.”

A Kings Park Herald colleague, Mark Jaffee, now a reporter in Connecticut, experienced early on Jack’s reputation at CNN as a mentor for young writers. “He made everyone feel good especially a teenager with cerebral palsy back in the early 1970’s when being different was not good; he made me believe that I could be a writer when others told me I could not.”