



REMEMBERING HOWARD R. STUMP

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On September 21, 2021, the Morgan world lost one of our best friends when Howard R. Stump passed away. His sisters posted this devastating loss to family and friends on Facebook, and within the next 24-48 hours individuals who were shocked by the news made hundreds of comments. Many expressed their sad feelings while other shared fond memories of working with him as well as standing on the rail at a horse show just talking about life in general.

Howard had a variety of interests, and worked in many jobs over the course of his career. After graduating from Albright College with an English degree and a love of theater, he joined the Circle Repertory Company in Manhattan, working as Master Carpenter and Assistant Production Manager. While in New York City, he used his technical skills as a Producer and AV programmer for many video and trade show presentations in the late 1980s.

In the 1990s, his interest in writing, photography, and going to horse shows with his family ignited a career change. He worked for The Morgan Connection as a writer and General Manager, covering horse shows across the nation. He also served as the publisher of The Morgan Horse, the official publication of the breed.

Eventually he moved back to the family's Heatherstone Morgan Farm in Clayton, Delaware, to help with the family businesses. He continued writing as a blogger on Soundtrack to My Day, where he wrote personal reflections about music and championed musical artists that he loved.

Later in his life, Howard assumed the role of caretaker of the family. He was the family communicator, planner of social events, family photographer and promoter of strong family ties. He was always available to support his circle of friends and family, and did so with integrity, honesty, humor and generosity.

"Uncle Howard was definitely one of a kind and brought laughter, kindness and friendship to many," said Lynn Mullaney Burke. "His sarcasm was a solid plus as well. Anyone blessed enough to have met or have shared in making memories with him was lucky."

The Stump and Lucine families met long ago at Morgan horse shows in the Mid-Atlantic Region. Howard and my friendship flourished over the years. Howard gave me writing assignments for both of the magazines he managed. My writing style changed in positive ways when working with him.

When he moved home to Delaware, I asked him if he would proofread some of my assignments. This is when I experienced Howard's incredible sense of humor, wit and sarcasm.

In return, he had me proofread his blogs about the music industry. In addition to posts about music that he personally loved, music reality shows like American Idol were very popular at the time. I was astounded by how quickly

he could put together individualized, fascinating critiques of reality show contestants shortly after the show ended.

Howard always sent me links to artists he thought I would enjoy, many of whom were LGBT and I probably would not have heard them before. I'll never forget our phone conversations talking about the artists that he supported, and many that he was able to meet in person and have a personal relationship with. Howard and his father were huge Philadelphia Flyers' fans, so he couldn't text or talk during the games.

Through his battle with cancer, I tried to text him supportive and caring messages. He shared updates with me, and he kept a strong and positive attitude. There are countless reasons I will miss this dear friend, but most of all at the end of a phone conversation, he would always giggle and say, "Ok babe, talk to you later."

One of his closest friends, Bonnie Sogoloff of Cedar Spring Farm, initially was his horse trainer. "I first got to know Howard when he sent us a young horse, HRS Mirror Image, for training," said Bonnie

"Howard became part of our family," Bonnie continued. "We had so much fun together, gathered in our kitchen laughing and talking. He taught me a lot about advertising and photography.

"My daughter, Wendy, was assigned the training duties for this young and impetuous Morgan we called Howard. They had much success as well as numerous unplanned moments. We loved the horse and he was hard to beat.

"Howard Stump was one of the kindest, smartest funniest humans I have known," Bonnie said. "Until his passing, our lives were bound together through Mirror Image and a shared love of the Morgan horse. It was my great luck to have known such a treasure as Howard Stump and I will always keep his memory dear to my heart."

Bonnie's son-in-law, Kevin Shortell, said, "I am extremely saddened by this news. I have great memories of hanging out with him at horse shows and during his time in Vermont. I can still hear his laugh, and will remember his sharp wit."

Molly O'Brien, currently manager of the Massachusetts Morgan Horse Show, said, "Howard was a wonderful man who loved his horses and the Morgan breed, and a true friend. I will always treasure our many late night conversations at horse shows."

"What a shock," said Sandy Sessink, who is one of the judges for this year's Morgan Grand National. "Such a sad loss! Howard was one of those people you always knew would have a kind word, and a smile. He was so interesting to talk to. He will be sorely missed."

Howard is survived by his father, Howard B. Stump; five siblings, James W. Mullaney (Rita), Timothy P. Mullaney, Sr. (Renie), Kathleen Mullaney (Tom Witkowski), William C. Mullaney, and Kimberly Stump (Ken Hausman); 12 nieces and nephews, and 23 grandnieces and grandnephews. He was preceded in death by his mother, Catherine M. Stump. A celebration of his life will be held at a future date.



Howard Stump loved spending time with his family. He will be fondly remembered by several generations including Evan and Jaxson Coble along with Katie Hausman.