

OBITUARIES *clp*

Robert Gruenberg, 70, Dies; Pulitzer-Winning Journalist

Robert Gruenberg, 70, a longtime Washington correspondent for the Chicago Daily News who shared the 1957 Pulitzer Prize for public service, died of heart disease Sept. 29 at Holy Cross Hospital. He lived in Silver Spring.

A journalist for four decades, Mr. Gruenberg was honored by the Pulitzer committee in 1957 for exposing the embezzlement of more than \$1 million by Illinois State auditor Orville Hodge, who was later convicted.

Mr. Gruenberg was assigned to city, state and national politics, and was frequently sent to Latin America on reporting trips. He was honored for his civil rights coverage. After the Daily News folded in 1978, he worked for eight years as a senior writer for the National Education Association and then retired.

A Chicago native, Mr. Gruenberg attended Herzog Junior College, now Malcolm X Community College, and he graduated from Northwestern University. He served in the Army in the Pacific during World War II.

His civil rights coverage for the Daily News included stories about the Mississippi Freedom Rides, the voting rights march in Selma, Ala., and Chicago's open housing movement. For that body of work he was awarded the first James P. McGuire Award of the Illinois American Civil Liberties Union in 1968.

He won four Page One awards from the Chicago Newspaper Guild, including one for his coverage of the Cuban revolution. He also covered the overthrow of Chilean President Salvador Allende and Latino unrest in Chicago.

He was president of the Chicago Guild during contract negotiations with the city's dailies in the mid-1950s.

— He left the Daily News in 1961 to

join the Washington Star and in 1963 became the first Washington correspondent for the Chicago American. He rejoined the Daily News in 1965. He worked in Chicago for three years and then returned here.

Survivors include his wife of 49 years, Ruth Gruenberg of Silver Spring; two sons, Mark Jonathan Gruenberg of Washington and Jeremy Ethan Gruenberg of Takoma Park; and a sister, Sarita Halpern of Evanston, Ill.

BY TOM O'BRIEN