

No. 15

(Senate Joint Resolution 49)

Senate Joint Resolution expressing the deep and personal regrets of every member of the General Assembly over the untimely passing of George A. "Gabby" Bowen.

The members of the General Assembly of Maryland express their profound and personal sorrow in the passing of George A. "Gabby" Bowen, for many years an Associated Press reporter with long experience in Annapolis and with the General Assembly.

"Gabby" Bowen was a close student of the General Assembly and its workings. Over the years, he developed a broad knowledge of State business and to a rare degree he could analyze the happenings in the State House and give to them a perceptive and understanding presentation.

In personal demeanor "Gabby" Bowen was friendly, affable and always energetic and able in his work. He was a friend and confidant of all and in his passing the entire State of Maryland has lost an outstanding reporter and commentator.

"Gabby" Bowen died on May 11, 1970. His death was a shock to hundreds of his friends and associates.

The written and printed expressions from his newspaper associates show with clarity and poignancy the impact of his life.

One of his long time friends was Lou Panos, writing for the Baltimore Evening Sun:

"'Gabby died Monday, and let's not have any euphemisms like "passed away" or "left us" or any of those other expressions he disdained. Gabby was George A. Bowen, Jr., and he had little use for phony phrases or phony people. That was common knowledge among a generation of politicians and athletes whose work he observed and reported. He recorded the accomplishments of the institutions, but he really covered the people who made the institutions and he did this with marvelous candor, skill and understanding. In a day when the fairness and objectivity of those practicing his trade have come under question by some in power, it must be mentioned that George A. Bowen, Jr. jealously shielded his opinion in a news story but just as jealously reserved his right to speak out in person.'"

A long eulogy was offered by Joe Dill, Chief of the Associated Press Bureau at a meeting of Chesapeake AP Broadcasters shortly after "Gabby's" death:

"'In 1942, a young man applied for a job with The AP in Baltimore. As is the custom, AP received several letters of recommendation on the prospective employee. The managing editor of his newspaper wrote: "He has been a faithful and efficient employe and I can recommend him for future success with The AP in Baltimore." Another editor wrote: "He has plenty of gray matter between his ears, common sense, and the energy to keep turning out work as long as necessary, and then a wee bit more.'"

"'The man walked into the Baltimore AP office for the first time on July 19, 1942. Almost 28 years later—on May 11, 1970, less than