For God & my family & friends, including the memory of John H. Whale.


**“[T]he journalism which succeeds best…fears God and honors Man…is a journalism of humanity, of and for today’s world.”**—FrmWWilliams’“Journalist’s Creed”.

**“To fulfill a dream, to be allowed to sweat over lonely labor, to be given a chance to create, is the meat and potatoes of life.”**—Bette Davis.

**“The First Amendment of the Constitution was not written to protect the people from religion; [but] to protect religion from government tyranny.”**—R. Admiral/Aviator/Sen. Jeremiah A. Denton Jr., longest-held POW in Nam (DvJM’s veteran-son’s 1st home was on Denton St.). But JD also said the soldier’s role is #1 in guarding freedom; sometimes the soldier is the most essential to freedom; other times, it’s the reporter, poet, doctor, farmer, lawyer, clergy, etc.

**“The Irish family drama entered my consciousness, and stayed there.”**—From the film-documentary “Sighted Eyes/Feeling Heart”; Lorraine Hansberry after attending Sean O’Casey’s classic tragicomedy “Juno and the Paycock”, which DvJM wrote a sequel for ca. 2008 P

**“[C]onfidence--and its sisters, persistence and perseverance--is the 20 percent of work that creates 80 percent of the results.”**—Peter Kozodoy.

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20

1
Photographer-Author’s Preface, by David Joseph Marcou.

Sometimes “no” should be taken as “no,” but not when it involves decent dreams you’re working on. My former (retired ca. 2013) therapist of 31 years, a good man named Jim, used to caution me, as did my parents, not to engage in “grandiose thinking.” I’ve long been a journalist and photographer interested in publishing and exhibiting my works. I want them published and exhibited in good places. It’s taken a lot of hard work and persistence, but they’ve been published and exhibited in many notable places and continue to be. I’ve apparently become Wisconsin’s most prolific living author, & I hope to build on that.

When I was cautioned not to move to Seoul when I lived there (1984–85, 1986–87), it wasn’t easy, but I accomplished some big things despite a tough period of disability; accomplishments there included being half of my son’s conception team. When I was cautioned not to think my work could be published in the Milwaukee daily newspaper later, I not only got published by it, I became that paper’s La Crosse correspondent 13 years (my first full report for it, on Mayor Patrick Zielke in 1991, was even entered into the Congressional Record by Sen. Bob Kasten). When I was cautioned not to think the Smithsonian would publish/exhibit my works, they did. I also had my photos and words added to permanent collections of the British National Portrait Gallery and other national and international galleries, archives, libraries, and museums. And since 1986, when I authored-photographed-published my 1st book, in Seoul, “Calling America”, I’ve authored-published 140+ of my books. I still love authoring-publishing books (despite tech replacing some hard-copy).

All my books have been paid for on-time, and though not yet with a paying book-publisher (1,000 “no’s” there), sponsors have assisted me. I have decent designers, printers, binders, collaborators, sellers, medics, family/friends, and archivists/librarians, too.

Long before I began authoring and publishing my own books, one adventure at a time, I was taught how to read and write by my parents and FSPA nuns; the latter taught me 12 years. In 1st or 2nd grade when I had rheumatic fever and missed school several months, the nun-teacher asked my peers to each create a page for a booklet for me -- on construction paper with crayons and yarn-binding. Years later, someone defaced that booklet a bit (it’s even possible I did that during my 1982 nervous breakdown, from which I recovered). And several times since 1983, I’ve been allowed to photograph FSPA HQ, St. Rose Convent, and its gorgeous, big chapel, Mary of the Angels, where at least two FSPA nuns have prayed non-stop ca. a century. I even wanted to say to the right nun during my Jan. 2018 convent photo-shoot: “Sister, I’ve heard your order has a short supply of nuns. Well, if you’re marrying any off, I only need one good one!”
Jerry Kramer and the Good Fight, by DvJM.

*“Many injuries and a serious illness could not keep Kramer down. Each and every time, determination brought him back to fight another day.”—Greg Arihood re: Packer legend Jerry Kramer.

Gerald Louis Kramer (b. Jan. 23, 1936), an author and sports commentator, is best remembered for his 11-year NFL career for the Green Bay Packers at right guard. Kramer was a key part of the famed “Packer Sweep”, a signature play wherein both guards pull out from normal positions and lead-block for a running back going round end. Kramer was All-Pro five times and a member of the NFL's 50th anniversary team in 1969, the only member of that half-century unit long not elected into the NFL Hall of Fame. He was a finalist ten times without being voted in.

Born in Jordan, Montana, Jerry Kramer moved with his parents and five siblings from Utah to Idaho as a youngster, settling in Sandpoint. After graduating high school in 1954, he accepted a football scholarship to the University of Idaho. Kramer was a star for the Vandals, along with teammate Wayne Walker, a future All-Pro linebacker with Detroit’s Lions.

Kramer was the 39th player selected in the 1958 NFL Draft by Green Bay's Packers. Also picked then were fullback Jim Taylor of LSU, and linebacker Ray Nitschke of Illinois. Kramer played every game in his rookie season of 1958, but the Packers finished worst (1–10–1) in the league. In Jan. 1959, the Pack hired Vince Lombardi as head coach from New York’s Giants.

With Kramer at right guard (#64), the Pack won five NFL titles and the first two Super Bowls. He was also placekicker in 1962, 1963, and a bit in 1968, too. He scored ten points on three field goals and an extra point, in the Packers 16−7 victory over the Giants in the 1962 NFL title game.

Kramer was often injured. He had surgery to remove big wood fragments in his abdomen from a teen accident, and a badly injured ankle in 1961. He played in 129 regular season games; he had 22 surgeries in 11 seasons, including a colostomy, which he described as “a horror movie.” His most serious health issue had been in 1964, missing most of season after being diagnosed with actinomycosis. He reclaimed his starting spot in 1965 and the Packers won three straight NFL titles and the first two Super Bowls.

In his penultimate season of 1967, Kramer collaborated with Dick Schaap on his first book, the best-selling Instant Replay, a diary of a season in the life of a pro football lineman. The book climaxed with Kramer's lead block for QB Bart Starr to win the “Ice Bowl” NFC title game, nicknamed for its -13 degree temp. Kramer and Schaap wrote two more books together. After retiring in May 1969, Kramer briefly worked as a commentator on CBS NFL telecasts.

Vince Lombardi had brought out the full potential of Kramer. Following Vince's death from cancer in 1970, Jerry edited Lombardi: Winning Is the Only
He knew I was doing good work, just not much writing then. Since, I’ve been able to author books relating to my 1981 interviews of Picture Post magazine staffers Bert Hardy and James Cameron. And for 27 years, until his death a decade ago at age 76, Whale corresponded with me, encouraging my journalism, my books and my family activities. He even said a 1998 pamphlet I did on Hardy and Cameron’s Korea reporting was the best thing I’d ever written; I was happy to have cited an insight from one of his books in it too.

Whale was born in 1931 and graduated from Oxford. His father was a nonconformist minister who lived to 100 years old. Whale acted in Shakespearean plays early on, and he studied and taught a year at the University of Minnesota. Later, he and Judy read plays on BBC Radio.

Though not a large man, Whale had a commanding voice, and his tongue-in-cheek humor was superb. He was a politics and religion editor for the paper; he and Judy were made its chief proofreaders. He wrote 30 essays for the Sunday Times Magazine that became the style guide “Put It in Writing,” his quintessential book. Earlier, he’d been a British Journalist of the Year for covering the masked IRA.

Christmases after 1981, I received beautiful art cards showing stained glass windows in various churches in Normandy, where he and Judy had a vacation cottage. Cancer coincided with his retirement, but Whale still loved hiking in groups in the countryside, including with daughter-in-law/actress Susan Brown (“Game of Thrones” & “Iron Lady”).

Wherever the Whales of this world and heaven are today, I hope memories of good Christmases are with them and all of us. Whale wrote in his style book, “The written word is immensely precious.” As Tiny Tim said in the Dickens’ classic: “God bless us, everyone!”—Hopefully 2018 will be like Christmas all year long.
Jerry Kramer, a collection of reminiscences from coaches, players, friends and family of Lombardi whom Kramer interviewed for the book.

In 2005, he released Inside the Locker Room, a CD set including Lombardi’s final locker room address as Packers head coach, immediately after winning Super Bowl II. In 2006, Kramer re-released his ’68 best-seller, Instant Replay.

Kramer lives in Idaho with 2nd wife Edwina (Wink). His youngest sons, Matt and Jordan, also played football at Idaho. In 2016, Kramer auctioned off memorabilia to raise college funds for his grandkids. Jerry was patient as 11 of his Lombardi-era teammates were elected to NFL HOF first. His ’68 best-seller, revealing illegal football drug use, may have earlier angered some HOF voters. But on Feb. 3, 2018, he was announced as a member of the new NFL HOF class. Jerry Kramer has long known fighting the good fight is part of life; what a courageous fighter he is.

Christmastime Conjures Precious Memories
by DvJM from 12-13-16 LaX Trib, later updated.

“A fastidious prose-writer, he required conscientious punctuation, and adhered to the old-fashioned rule that reporters were in the business of telling the truth.”—In Church Times obit re: John Hilary Whale.

Every Christmastime, I reflect on the autumn I lived in London (1981) as part of the Missouri-London Reporting Program. I had to return to the University of Missouri early that December, missing Christmas in England, and have not been able to return since.

John Whale was our group’s moderator-editor. He and his wife, Judy, hosted a welcoming party when our group arrived. Many of my peers and I lived in London’s Canonbury, Islington District, arranged for by Mrs. Whale. As part of our coursework, we were required to write 12 feature articles. I didn’t; a lifelong writer, I was new to photography, and I couldn’t resist walking and photographing the streets of London daily.

Our intern group of nine had a big office atop the Sunday Times building. I typed a bit there and used the phone. Cal Lawrence, my roommate, used my Olivetti portable typewriter in our flat often. Cal would become national editor for Newsday and a coordinating producer for abc.com. Eight articles I wrote reached Whale’s desk, but as a graduate student, my C grade didn’t cut it. I’d later be forced to downshift to a second bachelor’s degree. Near the semester’s end, the Whales joined our group at our flat for a going-away meal. It was elegant, yet homely.

London was very enjoyable, grades notwithstanding. I wrote about and photographed fascinating people and events, and Whale answered questions and edited, always fair and kind. Whale didn’t criticize me for taking pictures.