# Philadelphia Mourns the Loss of Renowned Photojournalist Mark A. Brooks



**Philadelphia Photojournalist Mark A. Brooks Passes Away at 62**

Mark A. Brooks, a celebrated photojournalist for Philadelphia’s Department of Records and a dedicated freelance photographer, passed away on April 29, 2024, at the age of 62, due to a heart attack at his home in Mount Airy.

Brooks, a Philadelphia native born on December 19, 1961, had a lifelong passion for photography. His career spanned over a decade as the city’s official photographer, capturing numerous official ceremonies, press conferences, and community events. He was particularly fond of Thursdays when the City Council recognized citizens for their achievements. Brooks’ photography celebrated the dignity and pride of Philadelphia residents, documenting events like the Philadelphia Clean Block Contest.

In his early years, Brooks took on diverse photography assignments, including weddings and graduations. He also worked in camera shops and managed properties. His dedication to preserving family history intensified after a fire destroyed many family photographs during his youth.

Despite suffering a stroke in his mid-30s, which initially paralyzed him from the waist down, Brooks showed resilience, regaining limited mobility through rehabilitation. He continued working, commuting to City Hall using canes, walkers, and later, wheelchairs. His journey often began at 3 a.m. to avoid rush-hour traffic, with assistance from local police and even school children.

Living with diabetes and other health issues, Brooks underwent leg amputations in recent years. Nevertheless, he maintained a positive outlook and active lifestyle, frequenting the gym and participating in activities at MossRehab center.

Mark Brooks is survived by his sisters Theresa, two other sisters, and two brothers. A celebration of his life will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 18, at Batchelor Brothers Funeral Services in Philadelphia. Donations in his memory can be made to MossRehab, Elkins Park.