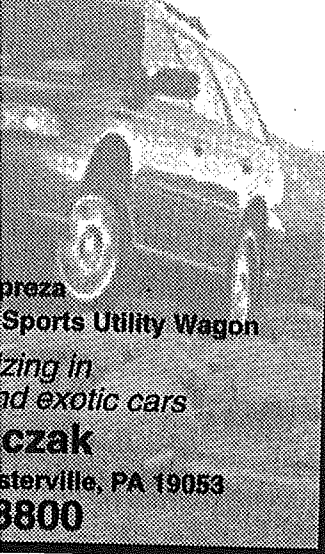


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# OBITUARY

## William A. Cole

William A. Cole, 56, a local AIDS leader and activist, died June 28, 1996, from AIDS complications.

Cole served on the Health Information Network Advisory Board of the National Education Association, was part of the Gloucester County AIDS Task Force and the Philadelphia AIDS Consortium, and was the first openly HIV-positive person on the board of the Ryan White Title II Planning Council.

At the AIDS Coalition of Southern New Jersey, Cole was the support-group founder and facilitator, a board member, vice president, acting president and spokesman.

He also delivered meals to home-bound PWAs.

"Bill left a legacy of HIV-positive people who he empowered and that has been his greatest gift to everyone," said Tom Saverman, executive director of ACSJ. "And he was an excellent

AIDS educator who reached a lot of people."

He also was the co-founder of the Wenonah AIDS Information Group for HIV-positive gay and bisexual men, and he was founder of the Positive Information Network.

This year, Cole received the AIDS Coalition's President's Award; he also received the Pathfinders Award.

Alan Koch, co-founder of Rainbow Place — New Jersey's gay community center — said Cole also helped the center in the past.

"Bill's heart and soul was in working with AIDS, but he also was very gracious to us. He and his partner hosted a fund-raiser for us at their home. [Cole's death] is a great loss to the South Jersey community."

Cole was born in Newark, N.Y., and grew up in Port Gibson, N.Y.

He received a bachelor

of arts degree from Hamilton College and a masters of education degree from West Chester University. He retired in 1991 from the Brandywine School District in Delaware and began devoting time to AIDS activism and education.

Cole is survived by his life partner, Bryan C. Cole Smith, of Wenonah; his father, Donald Cole of Port Gibson, N.Y.; two sisters, Phyllis Zeger of Phelps, N.Y., and Barbara Paulic of Rochester, N.Y.; one brother, Paul Cole of Arcadia, Calif.; and several nieces and nephews.

Services were held July 2 and 3. Memorial contributions may be sent to Wenonah AIDS Information Group, 1582 Glassboro St.; Wenonah, N.J. 08090 or the William Cole Memorial Fund at the AIDS Coalition of Southern New Jersey, 607 White Horse Pike, Audubon, N.J. 08106. ▼

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