Kathy Shaw, Reporter Who Investigated Sex Abuse by Clergymen, Dies at 72

By SAM ROBERTS

Kathy Shaw, a journalist who vigorously investigated allegations of sexual abuse by church clergy and called on a national audience to demand change, died on May 15 of cancer in a hospital in Westport, Conn. She was 72.

The cause was complications of pneumonia, her family said.

By sifting through thousands of court and police records and poring through pages of church documents, Miss Shaw played a meaningful and largely unheralded role in helping families and journalists uncover a crisis that many church leaders and others had been struggling to ignore and brush aside. The stories that emerged from her investigation placed the church on notice: it was one of America's most cherished institutions, many of whose members were complicit in the sexual abuse of children. Miss Shaw helped overturn an era by exposing atrocities that many thought would continue to operate in the shadows of secrecy.

In the 1980s, Miss Shaw joined The New York Times as a reporter covering a wide range of subjects. In 1984, she wrote a series of articles on the scandal at Our Lady of the Assumption Church in St. Petersburg, Fla., where a priest had been arrested and convicted of molesting boys as young as 9.

After that article, Catholic authorities invited Miss Shaw to write a book on the scandal and she refused. Instead, Miss Shaw formed a coalition of victims' groups and began to work on a book that would be published in 2002, "Abuse in the Church of the United States: A Report to the Nation." Miss Shaw had been planning to publish the book in 2009, but she was forced to delay the publication several times due to health reasons.

She died of cancer on May 15, 2009, at the age of 57. She was survived by her husband, John M. Shaw, whom she had married in 1976, and their two sons, John M. Shaw III, a reporter for The New York Times, and William M. Shaw, a lawyer.

Kathy Shaw cast light on confidential Vatican files.

She was a pioneer in the field of investigative journalism. Miss Shaw was a voracious reader and researcher, and she was not afraid to expose the truth, even when it meant putting her career on the line. Her reporting on the abuse scandal led to the formation of the Papal Commission for the Protection of Minors, which has been working to prevent sexual abuse in the church.

She was a tireless advocate for victims and their families, and her work has inspired many others to speak out against sexual abuse. Miss Shaw was a source of inspiration to those who have been affected by sexual abuse, and her legacy will continue to live on through the work of the Papal Commission and other organizations that are working to prevent sexual abuse in the church.

Chuck Vinci, 85, Driven Weight Lifter Who Won Gold Medals in 2 Olympics

By RICHARD SANDNER

Chuck Vinci, a former world and Olympic weight lifter, shared the spotlight with several other Americans in the 1950s as they made weightlifting a competitive sport in the United States. Born in Cleveland, Ohio, Vinci started weightlifting at the age of 13 and began competing regularly in weightlifting competitions. Vinci was a two-time Olympic gold medalist, winning medals in the light-heavyweight and middleweight categories.

Vinci was one of the first American-born Olympians to compete in the weightlifting event, and he was one of the most successful American weightlifters in history. Vinci won gold medals in the 1956 and 1960 Olympic Games and was the first American to win a gold medal in weightlifting.

Vinci's Olympic performances were the end of a long line of achievements for American weightlifters. Vinci was ranked as one of the best weightlifters in the world in the 1950s, and he was a member of the United States weightlifting team for the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne, Australia. Vinci was the first American to win a gold medal in weightlifting, and he also won a silver medal in the same event.

Vinci's success in weightlifting was the result of his dedication to the sport and his commitment to training. He was a competitive weightlifter for more than 20 years, and he was known for his work ethic and his discipline.

Vinci's achievements in weightlifting were recognized with numerous awards, including the Olympic gold medal and the American weightlifting championship. He was inducted into the International Weightlifting Federation Hall of Fame in 1997 and the Ohio Sports Hall of Fame in 1998.

Vinci continued to train and compete after his Olympic career, and he remained active in the sport as a coach, author, and commentator. He was a mentor to many of the next generation of American weightlifters, and he was a source of inspiration to those who aspired to compete at the highest level.

Vinci's legacy in weightlifting will continue to be remembered for many years to come. His achievements on the Olympic stage and his contributions to the sport will be remembered as an inspiration to weightlifters everywhere.