



In Memoriam

Missouri Press Association

September 2020

Missouri Press Association considers it one of the greatest honors to share obituary information about its recently deceased members with those still in the newspaper industry.

Through the lives of those who came before us, we can learn much about how to better conduct business, be stewards of our community and give selflessly. By following the example of these industry “lions,” we not only honor their memory, we can pay forward the lessons they taught in their lives and in their newspapers.

This year has been a particularly solemn reminder of the opportunity we have to reflect seriously on how we remember the deceased and whether we are living our own lives as if they were worth emulating.

As we move forward into 2021 and beyond, please help us recognize the men and women who have made a difference in the Missouri newspaper industry, and likely in your own life, by sharing obituary information with the Association’s staff.

With your help, we can go beyond honoring their memory and allow their stories to help others live by their example.

Thank you,
Missouri Press Staff

Heidi Hall, 49 — Editor at the Southeast Missourian

Heidi Neiland Hall, 49, of Nashville, Tenn., died Sept. 25, 2019, from colorectal cancer. She was formerly a reporter and managing editor for the *Southeast Missourian* in Cape Girardeau. She also worked for the *Democrat Advertiser* in Sikeston (her hometown), as well as spent time at newspapers in Florida before joining the communications team at Vanderbilt University in Tennessee.

Peter Daniels, 79 — Reporter at the Sedalia Democrat

Peter F. Daniels, 79, died Oct. 2, 2019, at his home in Sedalia. A lifelong journalist, he emigrated to the United States in June 1951 knowing no English and started school in September 1951. He was promptly set back three grades as he did not speak or understand English but mastered the language on his own. Upon graduating he got a job proof-reading for the *Sedalia Democrat*. He was promoted to reporter, starting his career in journalism at the *Democrat* for 30 years and then later at the Central Missouri News for 10 years.

Patricia Kirby, 92 — Former publisher of The Chariton County Courier

Former newspaper publisher Patricia Kirby, 92, of Columbia, formerly of Salisbury, died Oct. 15, 2019, at The Bluffs Nursing Home in Columbia. Along with her husband, she was owner and publisher of *The Chariton County Courier* at Keytesville. During her 30 years of newspaper ownership, she was active with Missouri Press.

Steve Oldfield, 64 — Former publisher, 2006 MPA President

Stephen M. Oldfield, 64, of Adrian died Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2019, at Research Medical Center in Kansas City.

With his wife Linda, he was publisher of *The Adrian Journal* and *The Drexel Star* for many years. He was president of the Missouri Press Association in 2006 and president of Central Missouri Press Association in 1989-90. Locally, he served on the board of education for 12 years and was active in the chamber of commerce and Lions Club.

Steve joined the *Journal* staff in 1982, when it was being published by Linda's parents, Lila and Bob Gunn. As a newspaper publishing team, Steve and Linda were described as having a dogged reliability that ensured they would put out their newspaper no matter what.

Among Steve's many legacies, he designed the MPA President's Gavel in 2006, which is continued to be used by the Association's new president each year.

Dan Miles, 69 — Publisher of Clinton Daily Democrat

Dan Miles Jr., 69, of Clinton died Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2020, at his home in Clinton.

As publisher and editor, Dan was the third generation of his family to run the *Clinton Daily Democrat* and the fifth generation of his family to operate a small-town newspaper. His belief in operating a newspaper came down to putting the community before profits.

Cheri Fleck, 71 — Advertising assistant at The Star

Cheri Lee Fleck, 71, formerly of Platte City, died Jan. 8,

2020, at her son's home in Laveen, Az. She spent most of her life working in the newspaper business, starting as a Line-O-Type setter for *The Chicago Sun Times* in 1968. She also worked for The William Press Publications of Chicago Heights, *The Bradenton, Fla. Herald*, and *The Kansas City Star*.

She retired from *The Star* in 2010 as a National Advertising Administrative Assistant. She was involved with lots of community efforts while at *The Star*, including helping initiate the annual chili cook-off fundraiser hosted in the newspaper's courtyard.

Bob Smith, 80 — Former publisher, 1991 MPA President

R.B. "Bob" Smith III, 80, of Lebanon, former publisher and president of Missouri Press Association, died Jan. 16, 2020, in Lebanon.

From 1988 to 1994, Smith was publisher of the *Lebanon Daily Record* and served as MPA President in 1991. Inducted into the Missouri Newspaper Hall of Fame in 2005, he served as one of the greatest advocates for a forum to recognize the state's newspaper greats.

Bob's newspaper career started in 1955 in his home state of Tennessee, including serving as advertising manager for *The Oak Ridger* in Oak Ridge, Tenn., and advertising director of *The Citizen Tribune* in Morristown, Tenn. He left Tennessee to become publisher of the *Tri-Lakes Newspapers* in Branson from 1980 to 1988. He also was owner and publisher of *Senior Living* newspaper in southwest Missouri in the mid-1990s.

An advocate for what Missouri had to offer, Bob began working with Missouri Division of Tourism in 1998 as a member of the tourism commission for nine years, with five of those as chairman. He also acted as interim director of the Missouri Division of Tourism.

Mark Hinojosa, 63 — Photographer at The Star, MU journalism professor

Mark Hinojosa, 63, of Columbia, died Feb. 21, 2020, after an eight-year battle with cancer. Before joining the University of Missouri School of Journalism as a convergence journalism professor, Hinojosa had a lengthy career as a journalist with many different publications. He started as a staff photographer with *The Kansas City Star* and was part of the 1982 Pulitzer Prize-winning team that covered the Hyatt Regency hotel walkway collapse. He also spent time working for the *Chicago Tribune* and *Detroit News*.

Duane Dailey, 84 — MU journalism professor, photojournalist, columnist

Fred Duane Dailey, 84, of Columbia, died March 10, 2020. A photojournalist and agricultural journalism professor at the University of Missouri, Dailey was the former 4-H editor for MU Extension.

He also wrote a weekly column, "Hometown Boy," for small newspapers throughout the state, with the last being published less than a week before his death. As a Missouri Photo Workshop participant, Dailey was inspired to help create the Agricultural Editor's Photo School at MU, helping editors and writers covering agriculture learn to shoot

documentary-style photographs.

Later, he would help run the workshop and would eventually spend a total of 37 weeks helping other photographers learn the value of rural stories.

Dailey was a longtime supporter of the Missouri Photo-journalism Hall of Fame and was inducted into its ranks in 2006.

Larry Fowler, 76 — Reporter at The Kansas City Star, Sedalia Democrat

Larry Robert Fowler, 76, of Cole Camp died March 17, 2020, at Good Samaritan Care Center in Cole Camp.

After receiving his bachelor's degree, he moved to Kansas City to work as a staff writer, assistant bureau chief and the Jackson County office reporter for *The Star* from 1967-1974. He then moved to Arizona where he worked for multiple newspapers.

In 1993, he returned to Missouri and began writing for the *Sedalia Democrat*, covering education, business and court news. He was also a general assignment reporter and feature writer for *The Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal*. Later, he worked for Osage Valley Publishing, covering events in the Cole Camp community.

Edwin Keller, 79 — Journalism professor

Dr. Edwin Roy Keller, 79, died March 25, 2020, at his home in Columbia, following a two-plus year struggle with brain cancer.

Keller moved to Columbia after retiring from Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, where he worked for 24 years as a journalism professor and advisor to *The Capaha Arrow*. He had previously been an English professor in Kansas.

He was also active in the Southeast Missouri Press Association for many years. In Columbia, he was a part-time professor for the University of Missouri.

Bob Humphreys, 93 — General manager of Columbia Missourian

John Robert "Bob" Humphreys, 93, of Columbia died March 26, 2020. He received his degree from the University of Missouri in broadcast journalism after serving in the U.S. Army Air Corps in World War II. Humphreys moved to Oregon where he worked in the radio business for 20 years.

He returned to Columbia and the Missouri School of Journalism in 1970 to earn a master's degree and to start down a new career path. In 1973, Dean Fisher appointed Bob to the newly created position of general manager of the *Columbia Missourian*. He held this role until 1987, when he became the chairperson for the Advertising Department. He retired from MU in 1992.

William Hale, 79 — Former publisher of The Pleasant Hill Times

William S. Hale, 79, died April 1, 2020, in Largo, Fla. A descendant of one of Missouri's earliest settling families, he earned his master's of journalism from the University of Missouri. He was a retired newspaper publisher, owning 10 publications in Missouri and Wisconsin, including *The Pleasant Hill Times*.

He also served as a director for the *Columbia Missourian*.

Jeffrey Goldsmith 69 — Reporter, editor at The Star

Jeffrey A. Goldsmith, 69, of Overland Park, Kan., died at home of cancer on April, 2, 2020. He was a career journalist, retiring in 2013 as a news desk editor at *The Kansas City Star*, where he had worked since 1978. He was known for remaining calm under the pressures that deadline brought and was more interested in putting out an excellent newspaper than drawing attention to himself.

He was a U.S. Army veteran and served in Berlin, Germany.

Percy Pascoe, 90 — Publisher of Cuba Free Press

Percy W. Pascoe, Jr., 90, of Cuba, died April 6, 2020, at University of Missouri Medical Center in Columbia.

He served in the United States Air Force from 1951-1955 during the Korean War and completed Air Traffic Control School in Biloxi, Miss. Following his time in the armed forces, Percy attended Southwest Printing School in Dallas, Texas and became Printer at the *Crawford Mirror* in Steelville from 1956-1960.

Working for the *Crawford Mirror*, Percy discovered his passion for community journalism and the written word. In 1960, Percy started *The Cuba Free Press*, a new weekly newspaper in Cuba.

The *Free Press* was designated a Blue Ribbon Newspaper in Missouri and nationally. Over his 42 years as editor and publisher of the *Cuba Free Press*, he earned more than 90 awards in journalism, including being inducted into the Missouri Press Association Hall of Fame in 2005. In 1980 Percy created the *Steelville Star*, a new weekly newspaper in Steelville. Percy retired in 2002.

Paul Pautler, 86 — Former publisher of Perry County Republic-Monitor

Paul F. Pautler, 86, of Cape Girardeau died April 10, 2020, at Chateau Girardeau in Cape Girardeau. Following his graduation from the University of Missouri – Columbia in 1956, he served as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army Field Artillery. After his service, he returned to MU and received his journalism degree in 1959.

He moved to Perryville when he purchased *The Monitor* weekly newspaper on April 1, 1964. During the next 17 years he expanded the newspaper to a twice-weekly publication after acquiring the competing *Perry County Republican*. Other acquisitions included the *Ste. Genevieve Herald*, the *St. Mary Review*, and Mineral Area Publishers, a newspaper printing plant in Farmington. In January 1981, he sold all his newspaper interests and retired.

He was the former president (1975-76) of the Southeast Missouri Press Association.

Donna Stewart, 65 — Publisher of Kansas City The Call

Donna Stewart, 65, of Kansas City, died April 11, 2020, at Timberlake Care Center. She began working at *Kansas City The Call* newspaper in 1977, immediately following her graduation from Lincoln University in Jefferson City.

She worked at the newspaper until her health began to fail in January 2020, including being a protégé of Lucile

Bluford, longtime editor of *The Call*, who hired her as a reporter. She worked her way up to managing editor, publisher and then became owner of the newspaper after Bluford's death. Stewart was known for mentoring many young people who would later go on to lead successful careers.

Jane Fowler, 84 — Feature writer at The Star

Jane Pecinovsky Fowler, 84, of Kansas City died May 1, 2020 at Shawnee PARC Longterm Care in Overland, Kan. After graduating from the University of Kansas, she lived in Kansas City, Mo. until 2017. During that time, she began her long career as a journalist at *The Star*, where she was a reporter and feature writer for almost 20 years. After she left *The Star*, she wrote several features on travel, food and fashion for numerous local and national publications.

In 1991, after learning she was infected with HIV, she committed herself to fighting that epidemic and became an international advocate and speaker.

Roger Swanson, 94 — Former editor at The Star

Roger Strelow Swanson, 94, a former reporter, editorial writer and editor for *The Kansas City Star*, died May 7, 2020. He joined *The Star* in 1948 and his jobs included city desk reporter, associate Sunday editor and travel editor, which allowed him to visit about 100 countries while writing articles for the newspaper's readers.

A retired U.S. Army Air Force captain who served in World War II, he remained with *The Star* until 1973, when he left to become a marketing executive for Walt Disney World. He would later go on to publish two suburban newspapers in the Orlando, Fla. area.

Velma Guest, 105 — Northwest Missouri area correspondent

Velma Leota Guest, 105, died May 25, 2020, at Pine View Manor in Stanberry. Guest had a lengthy history as a correspondent for northwest Missouri newspapers that included the *Union Star Comet*, *King City Chronicle* and 46 years as a correspondent to the *Tri-County News*.

Katherine Snyder, 99 — Former publisher of The Gallatin North Missourian

Katherine Snyder, 99, who along with her husband, Joe, operated *The Gallatin North Missourian* for more than four decades, died July 15, 2020. Mrs. Snyder often helped with typesetting and gathering "locals", while Joe handled the award-winning news and opinions pages.

Joe Snyder is a past president of the Missouri Press Association and a member of its Hall of Fame. The couple remained in the newspaper business until moving to San Marcos, Texas in 2001 to be closer to family.

Louie Vandenberg, 96 — Stereotyper, production manager for The Kansas City Star

Louis "Louie" Vandenberg, Jr., 96, died peacefully July 4,

2020, in Lenexa, Kan. He began a long career in newspapers as an apprentice stereotyper at Western Newspaper Union.

In 1948, he went to work in the stereotype department at the *Kansas City Times* and eventually joined the production department at *The Kansas City Star*. He worked his way up through the various departments, retiring in 1986 as production manager.

A World War II veteran, Vandenberg served in the Marines from November 1942 to January 1946. He earned a Purple Heart during fierce combat on the island of Bougainville.

He also served several years as president of the Stereotype Union Local No. 6 and worked part-time at other area newspapers.

Hank Waters III, 90 — Former publisher of the Columbia Daily Tribune

Henry J. "Hank" Waters III, 90, longtime editor and publisher of the *Columbia Daily Tribune*, died Aug. 20, 2020, at Boone Hospital Center after a short battle with cancer.

Hank got an early taste of the family newspaper business when he became a *Tribune* paperboy at age 11. While attending college, he joined the newspaper's advertising department and by 1959, he had become advertising manager.

At age 36 he succeeded his father, H.J. "Jack" Waters Jr., as *Tribune* publisher and took on the task of writing the daily editoria. Over the course of 50-plus years, he wrote some 18,000 editorials, a staggering achievement. He sometimes joked his editorial output certainly earned him some sort of award for quantity but not necessarily quality.

His first love was always the newspaper business, and he fought passionately to preserve the *Tribune's* integrity and credibility. He presided over several moves and expansions of the business over the decades, including starting a commercial printing operation and a \$16 million expansion of the printing business.

In the mid-1970s, he bought the *Kingdom Daily News* in Fulton, merging it with a competing paper he had also bought before selling in 1989.

By the mid-1990s, he had handed off management of the *Tribune* but continued in an advisory role and as the public face of the paper through his daily editorials, even after the *Tribune* transitioned to chain ownership in 2016.

He received the University of Missouri School of Journalism Gold Medal and the University of Missouri-Columbia College of Arts and Science Distinguished Alumni Award. He was inducted into the Boone County Hall of Fame and the Missouri Newspaper Hall of Fame.

Erwin Lloyd, 88 — Former publisher of Portageville Missourian News

Raymond Erwin Lloyd, 88, of Lillbourn died Sept. 14, 2020, at New Madrid Living Center. He was owner-editor of *SEMO News* in Lillbourn and the *Portageville Review*. In the 1990s, he combined the two newspapers to form the *Portageville Missourian News*, where he continued to work until 2002.

Please help Missouri Press Association recognize those from the newspaper industry who are lost each year. Send obituary information to mbarba@mopress.com so their story can be shared with other MPA members.