

Former journalist Richard Creed dies at 83

Creed, a 'fierce protector of the English language,' was reporter, editor and columnist at Winston-Salem Journal

Journal staff Report

Richard Hal "Dick" Creed, who worked as a reporter, editor and columnist over the course of a decades-long career with the Winston-Salem Journal, died Wednesday after a struggle with cancer. He was 83.

Creed, a native of Mount Airy, graduated from Mount Airy High School and attended UNC Chapel Hill on a scholarship. At UNC, he worked on the campus newspaper, The Daily Tar Heel, alongside friend Charles Kuralt, who would become widely known through his "On the Road" broadcasts and other work with CBS.

Creed worked for a few years at the Mount Airy News and began his career with the Journal in 1956. He was a reporter, city editor and Sunday editor.

Early in his time with the Journal, he worked as news director for WSJS Radio & Television, a station owned by the Journal that later split off and became WXII television and WSJS radio.

As a reporter, Creed wrote about the racial unrest of the 1960s and 1970s. As an editor, he helped others write about racial issues in Winston-Salem and throughout the state.

"You had to work hard to earn his disrespect."

Marie Creed
Wife

His wife, Marie Creed, said her husband was the first person she knew who treated everyone equally, regardless of gender, creed, race or lifestyle.

"You had to work hard to earn his disrespect," she said.

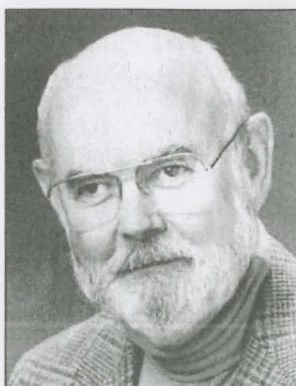
Creed loved the English language and literature. He read the dictionary as other people read books. He was a mentor to many of the reporters who came to the Journal.

His critiques of stories in the Journal, published occasionally in an in-house column called "Pats and Paddles" became a standard for clear writing at the newspaper.

Frank Tursi, a former Journal reporter who worked with Creed, said that Creed inspired him.

"He was a fierce protector of the English language," Tursi said. "He taught many reporters and editors the proper use of the language."

Bob Stern, a former copy editor at the Journal, said he met Creed about 60 years ago in the newsroom.



FILE PHOTO

Richard Hal "Dick" Creed was a native of Mount Airy and worked with Charles Kuralt during his college years at UNC.

"He (Creed) had an outstanding power of observation, memory and almost immediate ability to recall, recite and interpret much, perhaps most, of the poetry of Robert Frost," Stern said.

After Creed retired from the Journal in 1991, he wrote a weekly column that ran for nearly 20 years in the newspaper, dealing for much of that time with words and grammar. He had devoted readers across the country.

After that, he wrote a column for The Clemmons Courier until his cancer diagnosis in 2013.

Janice Gaston, a retired reporter from the Journal, recently wrote to Creed: "When I was young and green, I was scared of you. Once I learned a little more, I respected you a great deal. When you edited us and gave me a compliment, I was on cloud 9."

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