

According to TJHOF Bylaws, inductees represent those who have made significant and substantial contributions to the Journalism profession. Honorees may be living or deceased, native Tennesseans who spent much of their career in state or out of state, or non natives who spent a substantial part of their career in Tennessee.

To be considered for induction, individuals must have distinguished themselves through news or business management, leadership in the industry, or in the ordinary practice of journalism, and those whose contributions have otherwise been recognized by their peers. Inductees come from various ranks to include, reporters, writers, editors, publishers, news directors and other managers, as well as those who have excelled in the advertising, public relations, and education in those disciplines.

The selection committee is drawn from the TJHOF board which includes established leaders in all facets of the industry with expertise in the various individual categories eligible for membership in the Hall of Fame. Induction into the TJHOF will occur annually at a time and place established and announced by the TJHOF Board.



Tennessee Journalism Hall of Fame Organizational Committee

Whit Adamson, Tommy Bragg, Larry Burriss,
Rob Clutter, Douglas Combs, Jim Demos,
Peter Demos, Deborah Fisher, Jim Freeman,
Ron Fryar, Frank Gibson, Jimmy Hart,
Mona Herring, John Hood, Ed Kimbrel,
Rick Mansfield, Roy L. Moore, Andrew Oppmann,
H. Hooper Penuel, Jr., Mike Pirtle,
Bart Walker, Dan Whittle

The 3rd Annual Tennessee Journalism Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony



Embassy Suites Hotel
and Conference Center
Murfreesboro, Tennessee
August 11, 2015

PROGRAM

Dr. Larry Burriss

President, Tennessee Journalism Hall of Fame

Demetria Kalodimos

WSMV TV

Ken Paulson

Dean, Middle Tennessee State University College of Mass Communications

Whit Adamson

President, Tennessee Association of Broadcasters

Ron Fryar

Publisher, Cannon Courier

Class of 2013

Chris Clark Anne Holt Dan Miller
John Seigenthaler Dean Stone Bill Williams, Jr.

Class of 2014

Joe Birch Bob Johnson Alex Jones
Luther Masingill Otis Sanford Sam Venable



Without the assistance and support of the
Associated Press, Middle Tennessee State University and the Tennessee Association of Broadcasters,
this ceremony would not be possible.

The 2015 Class of Inductees Tennessee Journalism Hall of Fame

John Thomas Bragg



John Bragg came from a newspaper family that owned the *Cannon Courier* and started the *Rutherford Courier*, but he distinguished himself in another form of public service as a legislative reformer and expert in government finance during a 30-year career in the Tennessee House of Representatives. Born in Woodbury in 1918, he graduated from what is now MTSU in 1940. He was student body president and editor of the newspaper, *Sidelines*. Bragg did graduate work at the University of Tennessee and served briefly as executive director of the Tennessee Press Association in Knoxville. He was in the Army Air Corps from 1942 to 1946, returning home to join his father on the *Rutherford Courier* and in Courier Printing. The paper was sold in 1958. Bragg was elected to the legislature and served from 1964 until his retirement in 1996, with a break in 1969-70. In 1974, he sponsored the Tennessee Open Meetings Act, known as the “Sunshine Law.” Bragg’s professional life from then on focused on state government, and he chaired the powerful Finance, Ways and Means Committee. He helped leverage state funding for the mass communications building at MTSU that bears his name.

Minor Elam Bragg



Minor E. Bragg was born in Woodbury. Married to the former Callie Luree Bragg (no known relation to Minor Bragg), they had two children, including John, who followed his father into the publishing business. In the 1920s, Minor Bragg was editor and publisher of the *Cannon Courier*, which he sold in 1933 after launching the *Rutherford Courier* in Murfreesboro and Smyrna two years before. Minor started the new paper and a printing company despite existing competition. His son, John, remembered him as an old-school journalist who thought it important for the public to have more than one source for news and discussion of public affairs. Minor Bragg attended Middle Tennessee Normal School (later MTSU), taught at Bradyville School in the 1920s, and had interests in a funeral home, a radio station and a grocery store in Woodbury. The *Rutherford Courier* was sold in 1958. His grandsons, Tommy and David Bragg, published Minor’s first newspaper — the *Cannon Courier* — between 1980 and 1995, marking a third generation of Braggs in journalism.

Van Kent Flanagan



Kent Flanagan spent more than 40 years in journalism, including 21 as chief-of-bureau for the Associated Press in Tennessee. By his count, it was much more than four decades. He told an interviewer in 2012: “I’ve been a journalist since the age of 12. I got drafted in middle school to write sports for the student newspaper, and kept going.” The Ballinger, Texas, native graduated from Angelo State University in 1968 and served four years in the Army, including service in Vietnam. He later worked for the *Fort Lauderdale News* and *Sun-Sentinel* in Florida and the *San Antonio Express-News* before joining AP in Pennsylvania in 1979. AP sent him to South Carolina and North Dakota before his Nashville posting in 1983. In 2000, he witnessed and covered Tennessee’s first execution in 40 years. He left the AP in 2004 and served four years as journalist-in-residence at Middle Tennessee State University, and over two years as editor of the *Shelbyville Times-Gazette*. Flanagan was executive director in 2012-2013 of the Tennessee Coalition for Open Government, a nonprofit alliance of media, citizen and professional groups he helped form in 2003.

Jack Knox



John “Jack” Gill Knox, Jr. was a Nashville-born artist/illustrator best known for editorial cartoons drawn for Tennessee newspapers over four decades. His nationally recognized cartoons were often reprinted and sought by newsmakers, including presidents. His wit and biting conservative commentary appeared for 26 years in the *Nashville Banner*. His work also appeared in the *Evening Tennessean* in Nashville and in the *Commercial Appeal* in Memphis. Fascinated by horses from his youth in Texas, he took a year off and worked on a ranch there before joining the *Banner* in 1946. After retiring in 1972, he continued drawing cartoons for the *Chattanooga News-Free Press*. He also authored and illustrated his second book: *America’s Tennessee Walking Horse*. He was a graduate of Castle Heights Military Academy in Lebanon. As an artist, he was mostly self-taught and received no formal art training beyond a correspondence course his wife recommended. The Jack Knox Political Cartoon Collection in the Nashville Main Public Library consists of 240 original editorial cartoon drawings featuring conservative political satire and caricatures in addition to original art and writings about Middle Tennessee rural life and life on the grand rivers.

Roy McDonald



Roy McDonald started as a grocer looking for an inexpensive place to advertise his chain of stores. In 1933, he founded the *Free Press* (first as a small flier). McDonald added news and comics to the Sunday weekly and began charging five cents. In August 1936, the *Free Press* began daily publication

in competition with the morning *Times* and the afternoon *Chattanooga News*. McDonald bought the *News* in 1939 and launched a new afternoon daily, the *Chattanooga News-Free Press*, targeting blue-collar workers whose shifts ended at 4 o’clock. McDonald filled his publication with folksy hometown news and upbeat business features, steadily building circulation against the better-known and respected *Times*. The two papers entered a joint operating agreement — described as a “truce” — in 1942, and shared advertising, circulation and production, but maintained separate news/editorial staffs. The *News-Free Press* became more conservative in editorial policy and under McDonald’s leadership the increasing use of photographs spurred readership.

Bob Parkins



Bob Parkins was a dairyman when he and his wife, Dorris, founded the *Milan Mirror* in 1965, launching a career and family legacy of community journalism. Parkins purchased the *Milan Exchange* in 1977, naming the new enterprise the *Milan Mirror-Exchange*. The *Exchange* was 103 years older at the time. Without pretense, Parkins distinguished his newspaper by winning countless Tennessee Press Association awards, and himself through leadership in the industry he loved as president of the Tennessee Press Association. He published and edited the paper until his death in 2008. For several years, he served as a state correspondent for the *Nashville Tennessean*, filing features and occasional hard news pieces as city papers tried to cover more territory through the use of stringers. It helped keep Gibson County, in central West Tennessee, connected to the world.

John N. Popham III



John N. Popham III was dispatched by the *New York Times* in 1947 to cover the South, an area editors described as “from the Potomac to central Texas.” It was where he would distinguish himself with coverage of the civil rights movement. The last 20 years of his 45-year career were spent at the *Chattanooga Times*, where he retired as managing editor in 1977. A Fredericksburg, Virginia, native and Fordham University graduate, Popham joined the *Times* in the 1930s. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1942, and earned a Bronze Star for service in the Pacific during World War II. A year after returning to the *Times*, he landed the Southern correspondent assignment with two conditions of management: he had to drive, not fly, from place to place, and he had to keep an office at the sister-ship *Chattanooga Times*. He became known to friends as “Pops” or “Johnny” and to everyone else for his heavy Tidewater Virginia accent and trademark hats, fitting the caricature of a newspaperman. Post-retirement, at age 72, he earned a law degree from the John Marshall Law School after commuting hundreds of miles a week to Atlanta.

Henry Grantland Rice



Grantland Rice was an icon among sports journalists, but may be remembered as much for a poem as for the estimated 22,000 columns he wrote. He was born in Murfreesboro and educated at Vanderbilt University, where he played football and baseball. He worked at *Nashville Daily News*, the *Nashville Tennessean* and the *Atlanta Journal* before joining the *New York Evening Mail* in 1911. In 1914, he became a sportswriter for the *New York Tribune*; later the *Herald Tribune*. He served in the Army in World War I. By one authoritative estimate, Rice wrote more than 67 million words, produced popular short motion pictures of sporting events and became the first play-by-play baseball announcer carried live on radio during the 1922 World Series. His column was syndicated in more than 100 newspapers. He published three books of poetry, and a poem became his most quoted work: “For when the one Great Scorer comes to write against your name, He marks—not that you won or lost—but how you played the game.” His autobiography, *The Tumult and the Shouting*, appeared in 1954 — the year he died of a heart attack in his office.

Drue Smith



Drue Smith was a pioneer among women in journalism. First a feature writer for the *Chattanooga News-Free Press*, and later society editor at the *Chattanooga Times*, she switched to radio and hosted shows on WAPO, WDOD and WDEF, where she was public affairs director. When WDEF-TV signed on the air in 1954, so did she with *Drue’s Party Line*. She moved to Nashville to work in communications for Gov. Frank Clement before covering political news for UPI, WLAC, the Tennessee Radio Network, WVOL and multiple Nashville community newspapers. Her honors were numerous from groups and organizations like; American Women in Radio and TV, the Tennessee General Assembly and the Tennessee Association of Broadcasters. She was the first woman to cover politics full time at the Capitol, first woman chair of the Capitol Hill Press Corps, first woman inducted into the local Society of Professional Journalists chapter, and was elected its first female president. She raised thousands of dollars for journalism scholarships. The SPJ/Drue Smith scholarship is still awarded annually. Capitol Hill reporters remember her trademark, sound-bite grabbing strategy at the end of all gubernatorial press conferences: “Governor, what is the bottom line?”