



Ralph Moore Shelton

July 17, 1933 - October 1, 2020

Ralph Shelton, Jr., died on October 1, 2020, in Lubbock, Texas, at the age of 87. He was born in 1933 in Dallas, Texas, to Ralph Shelton, Sr., and Georgiana Keese Shelton.

He graduated from North Dallas High School, received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism from Texas Tech in Lubbock, Texas; served as an editor of the campus newspaper, "The Toreador"; and was a charter member of the Tech chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

In 1955, he joined the news staff of KCBD-TV Channel 11 in Lubbock and worked there — as reporter, photographer, executive producer, etc. — until his retirement in 1994. He later worked for the Texas Tech Office of Information and in public relations, and served as chairman of the Lubbock Libraries Board.

He was made an admiral in the Texas Navy in 1969.

He is survived by his wife Shirley Johnson, whom he married in 1954. Other survivors include daughter Sally Shelton and her husband, Gene Hess, of Lubbock, Texas; daughter Laura Wills and her husband, George Wills, of Lubbock, Texas; son Nathaniel Shelton and his companion, Mary Harris, of Albuquerque, New Mexico; and daughter Kathryn Leigh Menaul of Midland,

Texas; two grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be directed to Godeke Library or the education program at the Lubbock Lake Landmark.

Cemetery Details

Miller Crematory

202 Avenue Q
Lubbock, TX 79415

Tribute Wall

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“Ralph Shelton was my assignments editor at Channel 11 when I was a news photographer there between 1985 and 1987. And while Skip Watson was the head of the News Division, it was Ralph Shelton, who actually ran the newsroom.

He was kind and compassionate, but he could also be direct with you as well. In the summer of 1986, the chief engineer had our news cars outfitted with fancy two-way radios with the base unit sitting on Ralph's desk. We had to be very formal and very specific when we communicated on those two ways because we thought that the FCC would be listening. On one particularly hot summer day with the newsroom hopping from a potential riot situation on the bad side of town, I was in the news cruiser, heading to the scene with my reporter. We were discussing how dangerous the situation could be and I had mentioned to the reporter that I wanted hazard pay. She said to me “you have to ask Ralph about that”. So with some bravado, I picked up the microphone in the car, opened the mic and whispered “We want hazard pay!” A very calm voice came back over the radio and simply said, “shut up and drive Travis”.

I still remember that to this day.

Rest in peace, Ralph.

Travis Haynie - May 01 at 04:21 PM

JJ

“I consider Ralph as one of the most influential people in my life. I worked with him at KCBD from 1975 to 1980. Ralph always encouraged me and teaching me (a theatre arts major at TTU) basic journalism 101. His sweet patience and immense knowledge of written communication guided ALL OF US in the newsroom, making us all better humans. We all adored Ralph.

Jane Prince Jones - October 07, 2020 at 04:59 PM