

COMMUNITY LEADER, FORMER H-C PUBLISHER DIES

Joe Albrecht, Former Herald-Citizen publisher

Posted Thursday, October 26, 2017

BY LINDSAY MCREYNOLDS

The Cookeville community is mourning the passing of a former Herald-Citizen publisher who served the community in a variety of business and non-profit organizations.



Joe Albrecht died Wednesday night following several days in the hospital after a sudden illness last week. He was 76 years old.

“Being so close to Joe and Connie as friends, it’s difficult this morning to find the right words to accurately describe what Joe meant to our county,” Putnam County Executive Randy Porter said Thursday morning. “Putnam County truly lost one of its iconic leaders and I lost a great friend.

“Joe’s long-standing dedication to our community and the betterment of it will be sorely missed,” Porter continued. “He loved our city and county and was dedicated to do anything he could to make it better.

A native of Kansas who attended Kansas State University, Albrecht began his newspaper career as a teenager in the mailroom of the Manhattan Mercury. He later worked as a pressman while attending college at night, then became assistant circulation manager, manager of the commercial printing department, circulation manager, then advertising manager at the Headlight-Sun in Pittsburgh, Kansas.

He then became assistant to the publisher of the Cleveland (Tenn.) Banner and joined Walls Newspapers in 1976, when he became publisher of the Herald-Citizen, a post he served until 1989, when he left to start Albrecht Newspapers.

During his decade at the H-C, he oversaw the addition of a Sunday issue that continues today, increased circulation and he served as president of the Tennessee Press Association.

Several current H-C staff members worked with Albrecht and still recall his influence, including the increase in price of the daily newspaper from 25 cents to 35 cents in 1989.

Herald-Citizen Publisher Jack McNeely said, “Mr. Albrecht’s mark on this newspaper and on the local business community through his many selfless service endeavors speaks

volumes about his commitment to this community. Cookeville, Putnam County and the entire Upper Cumberland is less one champion today.”

Albrecht served as the TPA Foundation trustee for 30 years.

TPA Member Services Manager Robyn Gentile said, “He was instrumental in revising the foundation’s bylaws to form the foundation’s endowment.”

At the time of his retirement in 2006, Albrecht worked in the newspaper business for more than 50 years.

In addition to his career in newspapers, Albrecht was heavily involved as a community leader.

Mr. Albrecht served as chairman of the Cookeville-Putnam County Chamber of Commerce board of directors in 2004.

“He was pivotal in the founding and formation of the Highlands economic partnership,” said George Halford, chamber president and CEO. “Joe was an advocate and champion of development in the small business community.”

“When I came to work here in 2008, he was the first person I came in contact with,” said Lillian Hartgrove, vice president of workforce development and education at the Cookeville-Putnam County Chamber of Commerce. “He took me under his wing and taught me economic development. He was pivotal to growing and advancing this region.”

Albrecht was serving on the Public Building Authority board as vice chair, a role he had had since 2002.

His numerous leadership positions within the community included the Putnam County Library Board and Putnam County Habitat for Humanity.

“Joe was in his second term on the PCHFH Board of Directors,” PCHFH Executive Director Pam Ealey said. “Joe loved this community and understood the importance of giving back to others. I personally looked up to him as a mentor and learned so much from Joe’s wisdom and leadership. Joe was a great advocate for our ministry and each of us will miss him dearly.”

Putnam County Library Board Chair Laura Clemons said, “Joe made this community a better place. Several years ago, he and I joined the Putnam County Library board, and the library, and I, is the beneficiaries of his wisdom and hard work. What he brought to the Upper Cumberland as publisher of the Herald-Citizen was invaluable; he was a no-nonsense, diligent journalist. He was among my heroes and a friend as well, and I miss him already.”

In a story written by former Herald-Citizen managing editor Charles Denning at the time of Albrecht's announcement that he was leaving the H-C in 1989, Albrecht said, "Journalism, all that goes into putting out a newspaper for the community, holds out a special appeal to me, as I'm sure it does to other people. It is a wonderful opportunity to be of service to a community, to help promote and work for a better life for everyone, across all walks of life."

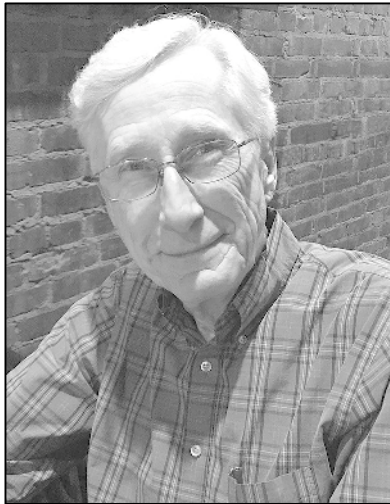
Hooper Huddleston & Horner Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Details were not available this morning.

Joseph Paul Albrecht Obt.

b. 1 March 1941, Downs, KS – d. 25 October 2017, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN, md on the 7th of July 1970 to **Connie (Herard) Albrecht**. Joseph Paul Albrecht, s/o **Harold August Albrecht** (1911-2002) & **Effie Roberta Hachenberg** (1917-2009), both buried in Cookeville City Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.

COOKEVILLE — Funeral services for Mr. Joseph Paul Albrecht, 76, of Cookeville, will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 31, at Cookeville First United Methodist Church with Dr. Martin Thielen and the Rev. Rob Wheeler officiating. Private interment will follow at Cookeville City Cemetery.



Mr. Albrecht's family will receive friends Monday, Oct. 30, from 4 - 6 p.m. at the Cookeville chapel of Hooper-Huddleston & Horner Funeral Home, and again Tuesday, Oct. 31, from 10 a.m. until time of services at the church.

Mr. Albrecht passed away Wednesday evening, Oct. 25, 2017, at Cookeville Regional Medical Center.

He was born March 1, 1941, in Downs, Kansas, to the late Harold and Roberta Hachenberg Albrecht.

Mr. Albrecht was in the newspaper business for his entire professional career, starting as a paper carrier at age 11 and working his way up to publisher at the Cookeville Herald-Citizen for 14 years (1976-1989). Following his stint as publisher, Mr. Albrecht started a newspaper ownership and consulting company, which at one time owned and managed eight small newspapers in Tennessee, North Carolina and Kentucky. He was passionate about the role a good newspaper played in the success of a community.

Mr. Albrecht was the consummate communitarian, believing he should serve the community in which he lived to the best of his ability. Over the years, he was actively involved in the Putnam County Habitat for Humanity, WCTE public television, Cookeville-Putnam County Chamber of Commerce, Tennessee Press Association, Tennessee Tech University Foundation, CityScape, First United Methodist Church,

Upper Cumberland Education Foundation, Putnam County Library, and the Public Housing Authority, to name a few of the organizations close to his heart.

Always a mentor and a leader, Mr. Albrecht often took colleagues under his wing to help them learn and grow in their respective positions, but also was known to lend a hand to get the job done. Ever the professional, he was commonly seen as a role model in business as well as life. He was a long-time Rotarian and enjoyed his fellowship at First United Methodist Church, especially the Wesley Sunday school class.

Mr. Albrecht greatly enjoyed playing golf, traveling, and spending quality time with family and friends. Most will remember his welcoming smile and true gentlemanly way.

He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Connie Heard Albrecht, whom he married on July 7, 1970; son, Jay Albrecht of Cookeville; daughter and son-in-law, Shawn Michelle and Jay Martinez of Kansas City, Missouri; sister, Joyce Yatsook of Grandview, Missouri; brother and sister-in-law, Harold Robert and Betty Albrecht of Fuqua-Varina, North Carolina; and two grandchildren, Taryn and Miranda Martinez.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Dennis Albrecht.

Pallbearers are Bob Atkins, Bob Bell, Gary Cunard, Bob Duncan, Ron Fryar, Ken Fuller, Brad Gran, Chuck Hughes, Randal Petrie, Randy Porter, Allen Ray and Tom Wolfe.

Honorary pallbearers are the Golden Eagle Golf Club dogfight group.

Memorial contributions may be made to Putnam County Habitat for Humanity, 728 East 15th St., Cookeville, TN 38501 or the Cookeville First United Methodist Church Early Response Team, 165 East Broad St., Cookeville, TN 38501.

Hooper-Huddleston & Horner Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements, 526-6111. You may share your thoughts and memories at www.hhhfunerals.com.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 27 October 2017

*Read more about the people of Putnam Co., TN & surrounding areas at:

<http://www.ajlambert.com>