

TV Journalist Rollin Post '47 Dies

October 11, 2011

Rollin Post '47 of Corte Madera, California, died at home on October 3, 2011 from Alzheimer's disease. He was 81. Post was one of the most respected political reporter and commentator on television in California from the late 1960s to 1990s. Click here to read the *Los Angeles Times* obituary.

Born on May 27, 1930 in New York, Post was the son of Langdon Ward Post, a New York State Assemblyman and member of Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt's "Turkey" Cabinet. Post was named for his maternal grandfather, Rollin Kirby, a three-time winner – and the first recipient – of the Pulitzer Prize for Editorial Cartooning.

At Webb "Postie" was a popular man-about-campus. He was captain of the varsity baseball team and a member of the Rally Committee. His yearbook write-up stated that he planned to become a lawyer, even though most of his Alamo buddies predicted that "he (would) end up in politics."

After a year at San Francisco State University and a year in the US Army, he attended UC Berkeley, graduating with a degree in Political Science. After college, he returned to Southern California with the goal of working in television, a medium still in its infancy. Inspired by Edward R. Murrow, he started as an usher at CBS Radio, then worked as morning copyboy for the news bureau. While at CBS Post met his wife of 57 years, Diane Opley Post, who he married in 1954.

In 1957 Post moved to CBS affiliate KTTV, where he was head writer and producer for "The Paul Coates Report," a nationally-syndicated newsmaker interview show and the first of its kind on television. In 1961 he began work as morning producer and assignment editor for KPIX-TV Channel 5 News in San Francisco, and within a year became a news reporter. His career in broadcast journalism would span 40 years.

Soon after his first appearance on the air, he won two awards from The Press Club of San Francisco. Active in Democratic party politics, Post stopped his personal involvement when he began reporting on politics, beginning with the 1964 Democratic and Republican conventions. They were the first of nine presidential election cycles on which he reported; he attended 18 national conventions over 33 years. Also at KPIX, Post began a long tradition of live election night coverage of local and national elections. From his earliest assignments, he cultivated sources in both the Democratic and Republican parties and earned a reputation for fairness. He was and remained the only local television reporter covering politics exclusively, and interviewed the leading political figures of the day.

In 1973 after 12 years at KPIX, Post joined the evening round-table commentators on KQED-TV Channel 9's Newsroom program. Newsroom evolved into "A Closer Look," which Post co-hosted with Belva Davis. For "A Closer Look" in 1978, Post undertook an uncommon assignment when he traveled to Cuba to file a three-piece story on life "behind the scenes" in Castro's post-revolutionary country. In addition to nightly reporting and analysis on KQED, Post hosted "California Tonight," a weekly public affairs program that aired statewide.

Post moved to KRON-TV Channel 4 in 1979, where he remained as political editor until his retirement in 1997. For 16 years, he co-hosted Sunday morning public affairs programs "Weekend Extra" and "California This Week," then "Our World This Week," an international news show. Early at KRON he achieved national recognition when he interviewed Senator Edward Kennedy during his primary campaign for president. Mr. Kennedy's surprising comments on the Shah of Iran during the Iran hostage crisis made international headlines and probably cost the senator his party's nomination.

In later years Post earned a number of professional awards. In 1983 he received the prestigious Broadcast Preceptor Award for "Outstanding Contributions to the Industry" from the 32nd Annual San Francisco State University Broadcast Industry Conference. A year later the CORO Foundation honored him with an Investment in Leadership Award. The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences inducted Post into the Silver Circle Class of 1990. In 1991 he received the Sigma Delta Chi Award from the Society of Professional Journalists.

Post was an ardent baseball fan, and a tennis player in his younger years. A committed environmentalist throughout his life, he enjoyed taking his family on camping trips in the West. He remained an avid hiker and walker into his final years.

Post enjoyed movies and in 1972 appeared as himself in *The Candidate* with Robert Redford.

Post is survived by his wife, Diane Post, two sisters, Wendy Moreton and Linda Post, three children, Lauren, Cynthia, and Kenneth Post, and five grandchildren.

An event to recognize Post's professional and personal friendships is planned for later this autumn. Please send your name and email address to the Post family via www.rollinpost.com to be apprised of the date, time, and location.



Comments

No comments posted.

