

Frank Morlan, 70

Frank Morlan, former publisher of the Brooklyn Chronicle, and an Iowa journalist for 50 years, died Sunday, Feb. 26, 2006, at his home in Osceola. He was 70 years old. He had been diagnosed with cancer in March 2005.

He married Sally Tomlinson on Aug. 3, 1957, in Adel and they had two daughters, Elizabeth and Jennifer.

He worked at newspapers in Adel, Ogden, Guthrie Center and Ida Grove. He and Sally purchased the Brooklyn Chronicle in 1968. They also owned the Sheldon Mail and Sheldon Sun and purchased the Osceola Sentinel-Tribune in 1989.

The Morlans' newspapers received more than 160 state and national awards. He was named the National Newspaper Association's columnist of the year for a selection of "Frankly Speaking" columns published in the Sheldon Sun. In 1981, he was named an Iowa Master Editor-Publisher, at that time making him the youngest person to receive the highest honor given by the Iowa Press Association. The couple received the first national Edward Jones Golden Heart Award for their efforts to help the less fortunate.

He was founding president of Northwest Iowa Publishers in 1974, a central printing plant in Sibley. He was president of the Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota Interstate Press Association and was president of the Iowa Newspaper Foundation in 2000-01. He had been appointed by Gov. Robert Ray to a state commission that studied physical education and sports.

He was an active member in all communities where he lived. He served on chambers of commerce, development corporations and was a member of Kiwanis and Rotary. He was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Des Moines and had been a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Sheldon.

He was a kind and generous man -- beloved by his wife and daughters; adored by his grandsons; respected by his peers; and admired by his employees.

Survivors include his wife, Sally; daughter, Elizabeth Morlan Walls of Albany, Ore., her husband D. Mack Walls, and grandsons, Robbie and Jackson; daughter, Jennifer Morlan-Horner of Indianapolis, her husband Scott Horner, and grandson, Thomas; brother, Ralph Morlan and wife, Anne, of Indianola; sister Bonnie Niederheiser of Des Moines; sister-in-law, Nancy Clarke, and husband, Gaylord Holland of Phoenix, Ariz.; brother-in-law, Cedric Glenn of Adel; nieces and nephews; and many friends.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Iowa Newspaper Foundation for a scholarship fund: 319 E. 5th St., Des Moines, IA 50309-1931.

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