

LARRY KING • 1933-2020

# TV host gave boldface names a cozy forum



Monica Almeida/The New York Times file

Larry King prepares on the set of his talk show at CNN studios in Los Angeles in 2007.

## BY T. REES SHAPIRO

The Washington Post

Larry King, the suspended impresario of cable television whose popular CNN interview program — with its guest-friendly questions and conversational banter — was a premier safe haven for the famous and infamous to spill their secrets, hype their projects and soften their image, died Jan. 23 at a hospital in Los Angeles. He was 87.

Ora Media, the production company he co-founded, announced his death but did not provide a cause, according to the Associated Press. CNN reported earlier this month that King was hospitalized for complications from covid-19. The TV host, who was long beset by medical problems, such as diabetes and heart attacks, underwent an operation to remove early-stage lung cancer in 2017 and had a stroke in 2019.

In a career that included print and radio, King was best known for sitting behind a bulbous RCA microphone in the anchor chair of his prime-time CNN show “Larry King Live” from 1985 to 2010. He began as a Miami disc jockey in the late 1950s, wrote a USA Today column of stream-of-consciousness musings for nearly 20 years, and hosted a late-night Mutual Broadcasting System radio show that was beamed to more than 200 stations. He played himself in dozens of TV shows and movies.

CNN founder Ted Turner called King “the most famous interviewer in the world,” which, at King’s peak, was closer to understatement than hyperbole.

His show, with its colored-dot map of the world in the background, garnered more than 1.5 million nightly viewers for segments with guests as varied as George H.W. Bush, Frank Sinatra, Snoop Dogg, Magic Johnson, Donald Trump, Michelle Obama, Lady Gaga, Moammar Gadhafi, the Dalai Lama and Marlon Brando, who, at once playful and bizarre, sang

an old pop song and planted a kiss on King.

Others to appear included sex therapists, ufologists and Kermit the Frog and Miss Piggy. The Muppets donned suspenders in the host’s honor.

Audiences responded to King’s gentle probing, smoky baritone and casual manner. His CNN show served as an antidote to the network’s otherwise round-the-clock breaking news coverage and partisan shoutfests. If other interview programs could resemble beds of nails, with “gotcha” inquisitions of newsmakers, King’s show was a plush chaise longue.

New York Times columnist Maureen Dowd referred to him as “the resort area of American journalism, the media’s Palm Springs, where politicians and other figures of controversy or celebrity can go to unwind, kick back and reflect.”

King said he preferred to avoid reading background material on his guests in favor of a spontaneous approach of asking questions on the fly. He described himself as insatiably curious and said his favorite query was also the shortest: “Why?”

One of King’s chief talents was his ability to put guests instantly at ease. He shunned the stiff suits favored by other newscasters for a jacketless look and rolled cuffs. His shoulders hunched as he leaned toward his guests. He seemed perpetually wide-eyed behind his windowpane glasses, keenly interested in what anyone sitting across from him had to say.

King, who collected Emmy and Peabody awards, conducted 50,000 interviews before leaving CNN in 2010 amid declining ratings. Into his 80s, he continued to appear on smaller cable outlets, notably the state-financed Russian television network RT, and on shows streamed online through a production company King founded with Mexican billionaire and telecom mogul Carlos Slim, Ora TV.

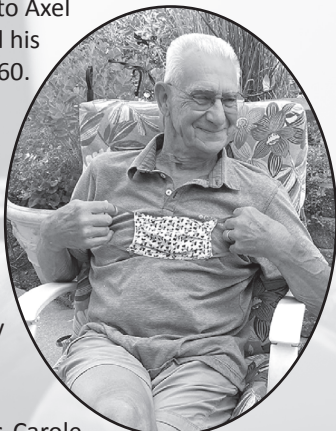
## Edward Axel Hansen

July 13, 1935 - January 17, 2021

Born in Portland, Oregon to Axel and Verna Hansen. Ed and his wife, Linda, Married in 1960. They shared 60 years of love. Ed’s sports passions were bowling and hiking with his dog Quinny. He and Linda also enjoyed their picture puzzles and traveling around the world enjoying the beauty and diversity of different countries and cultures.

Ed leaves behind his sister, Carole Grod, his wife Linda, and their three beautiful children, Cynthia Petrucci, Christopher Hansen, and Carina Dodge, five wondrous grandchildren and three great grandchildren. There will be a small memorial Service for Ed during the spring when all his family and friends can gather to celebrate his life.

Donations may be made to the Humane Society of Central Oregon, in his honor. [www.hsc.org](http://www.hsc.org) Bend, OR 97702. Arrangements handled by Baird Funeral Home. Please visit [www.bairdfh.com](http://www.bairdfh.com) to sign the online guestbook.



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

After receiving their COVID-19 vaccinations, visitors wait in a respite area to be monitored for any reactions during a vaccination clinic Saturday at the Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center in Redmond.

## Teachers

Continued from A1

“Teachers have been given options for what we are comfortable with, but we want to be with our students,” Wennendorf said.

Sydney Murphy, a third grade teacher at Silver Rail Elementary School in Bend, waited until Saturday to get her vaccine, but said many teachers rushed to the fairgrounds Thursday and Friday out of excitement.

“Everybody was sort of in a frenzy,” Murphy said.

Murphy said getting the vaccine was not just for her, but for more protection for all school staff and students.

“It’s just a bigger picture of safety for staff in the building,

which is really important to many people,” Murphy said.

Molly Wells Darling, operation chief for the Deschutes County incident command team, which is overseeing the vaccinations at the fairgrounds, said the vaccination center in the Middle Sister building had a surge of teachers on Thursday and Friday.

“Teachers, especially, were just so excited,” Wells Darling said. “Some of them were in tears, they were so happy.”

A total of about 4,600 people were scheduled to receive vaccinations at the fairgrounds by Sunday, including teachers, Wells said. She expects a higher number of vaccinations next week.

Many people who were vaccinated told Wells how fast the

process went. Once a person is registered, they are able to get vaccinated within 7 minutes, Wells said.

They then have to wait 15 minutes in a respite area where

they are monitored for any allergic reactions.

No major reactions have been reported.

Reporter: 541-617-7820, [kspurr@bendbulletin.com](mailto:kspurr@bendbulletin.com)

## DEATH NOTICES

**Michael “Mike” Steven Lake**  
of Sisters, OR  
December 6, 1953 -  
January 16, 2021

**Arrangements:**  
Deschutes Memorial Chapel and Gardens is honored to serve the family - (541) 382-5592. Visit our online register book to send condolences and share treasured memories at [deschutesmemorial-chapel.com](http://deschutesmemorial-chapel.com) or on Facebook at [facebook.com/deschutesmemorial](http://facebook.com/deschutesmemorial).  
**Services:**  
Services were held at 3PM on Friday, January 22, 2021 at 63975 N. Hwy 97, Bend, Oregon 97701  
**Contributions may be made to:**  
In lieu of flowers please make any donations to [everychildoregon.org](http://everychildoregon.org)

**Kevin Brian Kilpatrick**  
of Redmond, OR  
May 23, 1957 -  
January 16, 2021

**Arrangements:**  
Autumn Funerals-REDMOND  
[www.autumnfunerals.net](http://www.autumnfunerals.net)  
541-504-9485  
**Services:**  
No services will be held at this time.

### OBITUARY DEADLINE

Call to ask about our deadlines  
541-385-5809  
Monday - Friday,  
10am - 3pm.

No death notices or obituaries are published Mondays.

Email: [obits@bendbulletin.com](mailto:obits@bendbulletin.com)

## Daniel “Boom” Borchard

July 24, 1969 - January 3, 2021



It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of Daniel “Boom” Borchard. Dan passed away from a lengthy illness on January 3rd, 2021 at his home in Prescott, Arizona, with his girlfriend Jill and dog Rip. Dan is survived by his two children, Zac and Ema, his grandson Liam, his girlfriend Jill, his parents, three brothers, six sisters, as well as countless family members and friends.

Dan proudly served his country in the 82nd Airborne and was proud to call those he served with brother and sister, as well as those he met at various V.A.’s and SAW. AATW was a part of his soul and he is likely happily jumping out of planes right now.

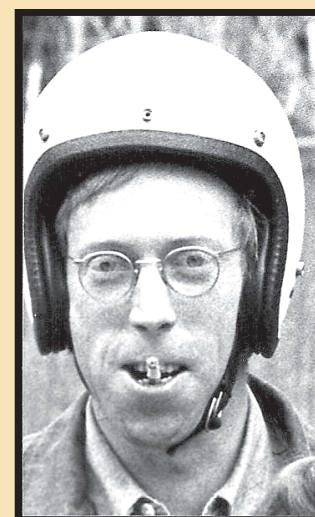
Dan worked in the tractor industry and it was such a part of him that he even talked about tractor parts in his sleep. Dan touched the lives of everyone around him and will never be forgotten.

Memorial Mass to be held at St. Thomas Catholic church in Redmond, Oregon. Jan. 29th, 2021 at 11a.m. Rosary at 10:30a.m.

Burial and Celebration of life at a later date.

## Jim McWilliams

August 12, 1940- December 13, 2020



Jim McWilliams of Bend, Oregon passed away from COVID complications with underlying conditions on December 13th at the age of 80. Jim is survived by his loving wife Sue, two sons Tim McWilliams and wife Erica Chambers, Kevin McWilliams and wife Alyson Evans; three siblings Pat Jussila, John McWilliams, Sally McWilliams and partner Beth Hutchison. He also leaves behind cousin Ed Lindsay and wife Peggy, cousin Susan Walker and husband Bob, nephew Tony McWilliams and wife Stephanie, niece Leslie Marcy and husband Robert. Jim was born in Oregon City, Oregon and graduated from Oregon State University with a degree in Political Science.

Jim and Sue met in Eugene, Oregon, eloped after a three-month whirlwind romance and remained dedicated to each other for 55 years. In addition to a highly decorated 25-year career as a Foreign Service Officer, Jim served two years in the Army. They lived in seven different countries and traveled to dozens more. In 1992 they settled in central Oregon but never stopped rollin...

Jim’s interests varied over the years and progressed from sporty cars, to motorcycles, to downhill skiing and finally to bicycles. In 1995 Jim undertook his first cross-country bike ride from Astoria, Oregon to Portland, Maine. He completed two more cross-country trips including one with his wife in 2004. He became an avid long-distance cyclist and rode over 25,000 miles during his lifetime.

When not on the ski slopes or his bike, Jim found many ways to donate his time to help others in need. He was a volunteer mediator for the Deschutes County Court and Community Dispute Resolution Program, Sisters Kiwanis member, volunteer reader for the Head Start Program, Sisters Library Board member, and driver taking Vets to Portland for medical care.

Upon his retirement in 1990, Jim was awarded the Intelligence Star and the Intelligence Medal of Merit. He was recognized for his extraordinary professionalism, integrity, leadership and resourcefulness. His impressive career of hard work and devotion to duty reflected great credit to his tenacious personality.

Jim was a kind, witty, friendly, courageous and extremely patriotic individual, a perpetual adventurer, fastidiously fueled by tea and scones. He will be missed by many to whom his memory will bring a smile.

Jim never gave up, never stopped trying to “keep on rollin”.

Please consider donating in Jim’s memory to:  
Doctors Without Borders:  
[www.doctorswithoutborders.org](http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org)

