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Raab had high expectations as News Graphic managing editor

Longtime journalist died recently at the age of 85

By Kay Dahlke
Special to Conley Media

CEDARBURG — When it comes to sharing a story, getting the news, supporting co-workers and immersing herself in her community, one would be hard-pressed to find a better example than Patricia Raab.



Raab

Raab, 85, passed away peacefully on Jan. 6, 2022. She was born Dec. 2, 1936, in Marshfield to Ruth and Hartlan Gowey, the second oldest of seven children.

She attended Marquette University, where she met William, her future husband. They were married Aug. 25, 1956. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from Marquette Journalism School in 1958.

Her column, "Round with Raab," published by the Peoria Heights Herald, was the start of her career in journalism. After moves to Lubbock, Texas and Milwaukee, the couple settled in Cedarburg in 1971, where she entered the publishing world.

Raab began work as a reporter for the Port Washington Pilot in 1979, eventually becoming the editor of the News Graphic Pilot.

"I asked Pat to be our editor, I think in the early '80s," said News Graphic Pilot owner Bob Schroeder. "She was great, very professional and very in keeping with the family atmosphere that was the News Graphic while my family owned it.

"Cedarburg was her community, but her fair and accurate leadership

"She was a great community journalist and an even better person, mother and wife."

— Mark Jaeger,
Friend, co-worker

echoed quality reporting throughout Ozaukee County. Everyone liked Pat and I personally gained confidence knowing she was leading our editorial staff. I'll miss that great lady."

Co-worker and friend Mark Jaeger said Raab hired him as a 'cub' reporter on the staff of the Port Washington Pilot in 1979.

"We both moved to the News Graphic Pilot when paper absorbed the Pilot," he said. "As an editor, Pat was unique in that she had high expectations of her news staff, yet was never demanding or overbearing. If you needed help, she was ready with suggestions; otherwise she just let her reporters run with their instincts."

The two worked together until 1985, when Raab stepped down from the newspaper to follow her husband's career with Travelers Insurance to Naperville, Ill., where she became editor of the Lisle, Ill. Sun. In 1992, the couple returned to Ozaukee County. After a stint with the Milwaukee Journal, she rejoined the News Graphic as a staff writer.

Raab's commitment to her community was widespread. She was instrumental in establishing the Parish Council at Divine Word Parish, serving as president for several years. She was later involved in the merger of St. Francis Borgia and Divine Word parishes.

Raab also served two terms as president of the Cedarburg Woman's Club in the mid-1990s, continuing active membership throughout the rest of her life.

Gail Ostermann, former advertising director for the News Graphic, remembers Raab as a gracious lady and a dedicated journalist.

"When I first moved to Cedarburg in the mid '80s, Pat connected me with the people who gave me my first job here in public relations.

"When she headed up the Cedarburg Centennial Celebration in 1985, Pat asked me to serve on the organizing committee. I'm so glad she did. It was a blast and gave me a real appreciation for this community and its history."

Jaeger said there was just so much to admire about Raab.

"She was a great community journalist and an even better person, mother and wife," Jaeger said.

In 2020, Pat published her first novel, "Kate & Annalise."

Raab is survived by husband, Bill, six children and 18 grandchildren two great-grandchildren, a brother, three sisters and other relatives and friends.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Friday, Jan. 28 at 1 p.m. at St. Francis Borgia North Catholic Church. Visitation will be held at the church from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Cedarburg Community Scholarship Fund in Patricia's name <http://www.ccsf.info/community-donations.html> Scholarships will be awarded to students pursuing a degree in journalism/communications.