

HESS

Sept. 5, 2011

Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame Association

Lawrence P. Taylor, Executive Director

P.O. Box 785

Bloomington, In 47402

Dear Mr. Taylor,

In recognition of his Indiana newspaper career, I would like to nominate my husband, Howard K. "Skip" Hess, 73, Indianapolis, to be considered for induction into the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame.

In 2012 he will celebrate his 50th year in journalism, 47 of which were writing for Indiana newspapers. Those include the Kokomo Morning Times (1964-66) the Wabash Plain Dealer (1966-67), the Indianapolis News (1967-95) and The Indianapolis Star (1995-2011).

When Skip "retired" in 1999, The Star asked him to continue to write an outdoor column for the sports page, which he has done for 12 years.

Skip did not attend college. He graduated from Mt. Carmel (Illinois) High School in 1957. He was drafted into the U.S. Army

in 1961, where he developed his writing skills as a student at the Army's defense information school in New York, and later as writer and editor for the Fort Hood (Tex.) Sentinel.

When he completed his military duty in 1964, Skip was hired as a sports writer for the Kokomo Morning Times. He was named the newspaper's sports editor in 1965.

He was hired as sports editor for the Wabash Plain Dealer in 1966, and left there in 1967 to accept a general assignment reporter position with The Indianapolis News.

Within a year, Skip began what I consider to be an illustrious 31-year span as an award-winning investigative, government, general assignment, feature and outdoor reporter for The News and The Star.

From 1968 to 74, he won numerous state awards for disclosing what Gov. Otis Bowen would call "deplorable and dehumanizing" treatment of mentally ill persons at Central State Hospital in Indianapolis and other state hospitals (a list of awards is in attachment).

In 1974, he was nominated for a Pulitzer Price by The News for his series of articles on the mental health hospitals (samples of articles are in an attachment).

Skip has told me that of all the 4,000-plus articles he has written in his career, he is proudest of his stories that led to the

end of hundreds of mentally ill patients being beaten, used as unpaid labor workers inside and outside hospitals, forced into prostitution, living in filthy, rat-infested and fire hazard buildings, fed tainted food and not treated for months, and sometimes for years, for their illnesses.

Gov. Otis Bowen publically credited Skip with widespread improvements in the state's mental health system, including construction of new hospital facilities at Central State (see attachment).

Skip was versatile in his investigative articles and series of articles on wrongdoing by public officials, all of which he uncovered by long hours of research of records and interviews with sources.

He took pride in confidential sources trusting him with information. He had numerous informants.

In 1984, Skip examined years of Indianapolis bail bond documents. He found that bonding companies had not paid tens of thousands of dollars in penalties and the money was recovered for the city.

Skip also disclosed corruption and misuse of public funds in the state's Department of Education and in the Secretary of State's office.

His investigation and articles on the DOE led to the 1985 conviction of four-term state schools superintendent Harold Negley in felony charges of ghost employment and official misconduct.

Secretary of State Larry Conrad had to repay the state for thousands of taxpayer dollars that he used on political campaigns and for his personal use.

His last investigative reporting assignment earned him a second nomination for the Pulitzer Prize.

Skip was on a team of reporters in 1987 that uncovered widespread corruption within the state's Department of Corrections that led to the criminal conviction of its chief, Gordon Faulkner (samples of articles in attachment).

Some other major events he reported on include:

- *The 1978 Indiana blizzard.

- *The 1969 mid-air airplane crash over Shelby County that killed 83 people.

- *The 1977 shotgun kidnapping and terrorizing of Indianapolis businessman Richard Hall by Tony Kiritsis.

- *The 1965 Palm Sunday tornados in Howard County.

*The 1965 and 1967 World Series and 1966 NFL championship when he was sports editor of the Kokomo Morning Times.

*Thirty consecutive years of reporting and photographing the Indianapolis 500 Race.

*Numerous kidnappings, murders and rapes, including the 1979 killing of a mother and her three children by convicted killer Steven Judy, who was electrocuted for his crimes.

He investigated a tip and found that a Marion County sheriff's deputy had falsely accused a man of beating and robbing him. The suspect was found guilty and was sentenced to 25 years in prison, but the man was released from jail after Skip disclosed that the veteran deputy had lied to authorities.

Once, Skip was assigned by The News to take no money and no identification and to live on Indianapolis streets for a week to report on what it was like to be homeless and broke.

Since 1995, Skip has welcomed a chance to write about nature and people that he admires. Those people include an interview with Rachael Robinson, the wife of baseball's Jackie Robinson (the story is in an attachment).

He also interviewed astronaut Neil Armstrong at Purdue University and he traveled to Cape Kennedy to write a

“sidebar” story on the day of the Apollo 11 liftoff that would take Armstrong to the moon (article is in an attachment).

When Skip “retired” in 1999, Gov. Frank O’Bannon named him a “Sagamore of the Wabash” and former Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith honored him with “Skip Hess Day” in Indy (see attachments).

He was a five-time winner of a CASPER award for community service, and four times he was named Indianapolis Magazine’s “Best of Indianapolis” investigative reporter.

He has won more than 40 writing awards in Indiana, including two United Press International Hortense Myers Awards, two Indiana Associated Press Managing Editors awards, Indianapolis Press Club awards, a Eugene J. Cadou Memorial award, and an international firefighters award (photos of some of those awards are in an attachment).

But Skip has frequently said that none of those honors would have been possible had it not been for his publisher, Eugene S. Pulliam.

He said Mr. Pulliam put trust in him to report accurately and fairly, as did his managing editors, Frank Caperton and Nancy Comiskey.

He said that after writing about corruption for 25 years, he welcomed an opportunity to write outdoor-related and

human interest stories for the features section. (His boss, Nancy Comiskey, had a photo of Skip at her desk with the word “incorrigible” written beneath it. He loved it.)

In the 1970s, Skip voluntarily wrote a letter in support for Bettie Cadou, assigned to The News “women’s section” to be used in federal court if needed.

Ms. Cadou had filed a complaint against the newspaper for what she believed to be its discriminating policy of not hiring female reporters in the newsroom. That barrier ended abruptly. Her reporting subsequently won her 50 first-place awards from media and other professional organizations. She died in 2002.

When The News hired Reginald Bishop, the newspaper’s first African-American reporter, editors assigned Bishop to work with Skip in his probe of mental hospitals.

Skip volunteered yearly to mentor interns in The News and The Star Pulliam Fellow program. He was a guest speaker at journalism and government seminars and classes at Indiana University, Purdue University, Ball State University, Butler University and IUPUI.

He also accepted invitations to speak at Indianapolis area high school and grade school journalism classes.

He was a volunteer coach for girl's softball and worked at fund-raising events at the Indianapolis Edgewood Athletic Association for more than 20 years.

He also volunteered at the Indianapolis Ronald McDonald House for several years and he played "Santa" at an annual fund-raiser for children hospitalized at Riley Hospital.

He continues to ride his motorcycle for the Indiana Patriot Guard to escort the bodies of deceased soldiers to funeral homes.

And he volunteers for youth programs and fund-raising events at Rocklane Christian Church, Greenwood, where he is a member.

He has six children, Vicki, Tammy, Shane, Erin, Michelle and Matt, and a deceased stepson, Ronnie. He has ten grandchildren.

Skip and I, along with four animal shelter "rescued" dogs, reside at 10749 Suzy Lane, Indianapolis, In 46259

I can be reached at 317-695-0980 (cell) or 317-508-1139 (work).

I apologize for the condition of some of the old articles that I copied from an old scrapbook.

I have asked others to join me in nominating Skip for the Hall of Fame. I have included their nomination letters.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gloria G. Hess

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gloria G. Hess". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "G" and "H".

Hess

August 26, 2011

Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame Association

Lawrence P. Taylor, Executive Director

P.O. Box 785

Bloomington, IN 47402

Dear Mr. Taylor:

This letter supports the nomination of Howard K. "Skip" Hess for inclusion in the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame. His remarkable accomplishments, including many reporting awards, are ably outlined in the nomination letter you received earlier from his wife, Gloria G. Hess. I simply want to share with you an editor's impression of his work.

Skip was already a senior reporter for The Indianapolis News when I was named managing editor of The News in 1984. Our relationship continued after I became executive editor of The Star and The News. I had first-hand knowledge of his work until I retired in December of 2000. And it is from that context that I enthusiastically endorse his nomination.

Few reporters in my experience could match Skip's tenacity in pursuit of a story and his unusual ability to develop sources from people who had initially been reluctant to talk to him. For example, I remember a time when we were seriously stalled in an investigation of the Indiana Department of Corrections. Skip made repeated calls over many months to turn a potential source into an actual key source. The source had been rightly concerned about retaliation on the job if she talked to Skip. He patiently worked to assure her that providing information was the right thing to do. That information helped Skip develop stories that led to the criminal conviction of the head of Corrections.

I saw Skip display similar tenacity in pursuit of stories that led to the conviction of the Indiana state school superintendent on charges of ghost employment and official misconduct. In these and many other stories, Skip Hess got results that clearly exemplify the public good that results when the press fulfills its "watchdog" role.

The example of his decades-long devotion to the craft and values of reporting should, I believe, be represented in the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,



Frank Caperton,

Retired Executive Editor, The Indianapolis Star



SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

August 17, 2011

The Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame
Attn: Lawrence P. Taylor, Executive Director
PO Box 785
Bloomington IN 47402

Dear Mr. Taylor and the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame Committee:

Skip Hess defines the best of Indiana journalism for those who worked with him at The Indianapolis News and The Indianapolis Star and for those who read the thousands of stories he wrote for those papers in his career. I knew Skip by his byline long before I had the privilege of working with him in the newsroom. And it's an honor to write a letter on his behalf for the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame.

Skip is that rare newspaper journalist who transcends generations and writing styles. He started his career in the rough-and-tumble newsroom of the late 1960s, a time when hard-boiled editors drop-kicked metal trash cans and reporters chain-smoked Luckies and tucked press passes in their hatbands. From the beginning, Skip jumped on whatever story came his way and turned it around for the next edition. Beating The Star and the radio and TV stations, after all, was second only to covering the news.

Skip made a name for himself as a reporter who wrote about marginalized people that other reporters often overlooked - the elderly, prisoners, the homeless, patients with mental illness. Skip anchored investigative reporting teams that delved into neglect in the state's mental institutions, abuses in the bail bond system and corruption in the Department of Corrections. His stories not only garnered awards, but led to criminal indictments and dramatic changes in how these institutions operated.

Skip mentored a generation of young reporters coming into the newsroom in the post-Watergate era. When I first came to The News in 1987, Skip was a clear newsroom leader, offering tips to new journalists, freely sharing his sources in the police department and city-county building and encouraging reporters to keep going when their stories hit roadblocks.

But Skip never let himself be defined by a particular style of journalism. Yes, he could dash off to cover a plane crash and stand up to an angry public official. But he was also a gifted feature writer who could write a story that would make you laugh or cry or both. He refused to be predictable. So, when The News and The Star merged in 1995, no one was

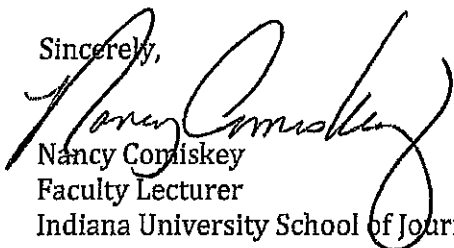
surprised when Skip became the newsroom's first "outdoor" beat reporter. In that role, he wrote eloquently about canoeing and fishing and hiking and wildlife and persuaded many readers to get out of their routines and discover the natural beauty of Central and Southern Indiana.

Skip is a consummate journalist who never lost his zest for a story and always put the reader first. On a personal level, he was and is an impish prankster, a skilled raconteur and a kind and compassionate man. He mixes easily with people of all backgrounds and treated Edwin O. Park, the mentally challenged newsroom clerk, with the same respect he afforded Publisher Eugene S. Pulliam. After Edwin retired, Skip often visited him at the group home where he lived, just to keep him connected to the newsroom. People like and trust Skip, and that was one of his many secrets as a reporter.

I worked with Skip as a fellow reporter, as a desk editor and as a managing editor in my years at The News and The Star. I learned so much from him about the practice of journalism and about working with people in and out of the newsroom. I feel fortunate to call him a colleague and a friend.

Thank you for considering him for the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame. He will be in good company there.

Sincerely,



Nancy Corniskey
Faculty Lecturer
Indiana University School of Journalism

Ruth Holladay
5304 Graceland Ave.
Indianapolis, Ind. 46208
Aug 13, 2011

Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame Association
Lawrence P. Taylor, Executive Director
P.O. Box 785
Bloomington, Ind. 47402

Dear Mr. Taylor,

I would like to nominate Howard "Skip" Hess to the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame.

In doing so, I am mindful of his extraordinary accomplishments during his career at the Indianapolis News from 1968 to 1995, where his beats included general assignment, cops, courts and business. He eventually moved into investigative reporting and wrote groundbreaking and award-winning Page 1 stories about the closing of Central State Hospital in Indianapolis, the problems in the Indiana Department of Corrections and the behind-the-scenes exploits of then-Mayor William Hudnut of Indianapolis.

However, the time I am focused on for this nomination is when the News merged with the Indianapolis Star in 1995, and he "moved over" to the Star's features department, where I was his editor.

Skip, as everyone calls him, was at this time a seasoned and distinguished journalist, but he did not bring an inflated ego into the merger process or his new digs. Instead, this skilled reporter in his prime applied for and got the job of outdoor reporter for the features department, which was, in fact, his assignment of first choice. This meant that, instead of examining deficiencies in state institutions and leaders, he turned his watchful eye on Indiana's

rich resources – our wildlife, nature trails, camp sites, parks, trees, wildflowers, waterways and everything under the sun and moon. Being a jack-of-all trades and always eager to help editors and improve the newspaper, he also was a generous contributor to general assignment features.

It gave me great pleasure, as his editor, that he approached any assignment with the same enthusiasm, thoroughness and talent he brought to bear on earlier subjects. His coverage was simply joyous; he was as entranced by a tiny wildflower in the woods as he had been with weightier failures in government and politics.

Equally significantly, he embraced what was then yet another fairly new chapter in always-evolving journalism – he was wholistic and creative as he worked with photographers, editors and graphic designers to come up with stories that were as visually compelling as they were well-written and informative. He gave 110 percent and more to any assignment. I am enclosing under a separate package a memo he wrote, regarding his approach to his beat and his understanding of the importance of reporters going out and finding great stories rather than passively being assigned something by an editor.

If there's one word that comes to mind with Skip during the four years I worked with him, it is trusted. I trusted him with any story, and I trusted him to make the coffee for features (he was humble) and keep us all on an even keel. He did it all.

As an example of the trust he engendered, here's a story. He once told me that when he was writing about then-Mayor Hudnut at the News, he had something like five sources who contributed to his reporting. "Young" Gene Pulliam, the publisher of the News, was vetting all these stories, and being a cautious and compassionate man, aware of the consequences for the mayor and his administration, he demanded six sources. Skip went out, did more

digging, and got them. Then Mr. Pulliam, still conservative, upped the number to seven. Again, Skip prevailed. Finally, as I recall, Mr. Pulliam said, "Well, Skip, I think we need eight sources." Skip dug deeper yet, and he produced eight solid sources. He was tenacious and fair.

He brought these same qualities into our merged features department.

Another anecdote, related by Skip to me: During his time at the News, while doing investigative, undercover work, he once spent an entire night that ran into dawn on the city's Downtown streets, chasing a sensitive story. Early that morning, exhausted and ruffled, he took a quick nap on a bench in the park across from the Star/News building. Mr. Pulliam, on his way to his office, happened to walk through the park, saw Skip half-asleep on the bench, and said, simply, with characteristic reticence, "Good morning, Skip." "Good morning, Mr. Pulliam," Skip replied. No question, he worked it.

He brought a seemingly effortless grace – a looseness -- and great humor into the Star newsroom at the time of the merger. Understandably, many younger News reporters were a tad resentful over the loss of their beloved "Great Hoosier Daily" and ceding power to the Star. As you will see from two short memos included under a separate packet, Skip mentored these younger journalists and helped them get over the hump. His gifts were not taking himself seriously and making us all laugh. He was ethical and principled and hard-working, but he was never short of a joke or a wisecrack, often at his own expense. I also know from personal recollections that he mentored young reporters, showing them the ropes and helping them, by example, to stay focused on the prize. In his book, that was always quality journalism.

Among the stories I recall him writing for features was a piece about taking both a day and a night walk on a nature trail -- once again, he was willing to work the odd hours. His writing was astute and delightful, and he clearly communicated to readers the pleasure he experienced at being out of doors in both the blazing day and deepest night, right down to the spider webs spun at twilight that he disturbed in total darkness. I include this as well in the packet.

During the four short years he worked for me, from 1995 to 1999 when he retired, he wrote about (among other topics) camping sites, wilderness trails, how to prepare and pack for a camping expedition, fishing, hunting, trees, firewood, wildlife, birds, how to tell what kind of winter we were going to experience (watch the woolly worm), the night sky, and yes, insects -- no topic was too small, literally. Plus he produced many fine general assignment stories.

My personal favorite of all his nature stories says a great deal about his powers of observation and his empathy. One day, driving to work in his truck en route from the Southeastside to Downtown Indianapolis, he saw a wounded crow at the side of I-65 near Raymond Street.

Then, later, driving back home, he saw that the injured crow was being attended to by several other crows....fed and protected, nurtured even. This process went on for several days; Skip saw the daily drama unfold, never missed a beat, returned to the scene, etc.

All his stories resonated with readers, but this story of the ailing crow in particular struck a chord. It was both small and big, a slice of life in the guts of the city, where nature thrives and sometimes even prevails against all odds, including the ferocious roar of semis. The crow lived, and flew off, and Skip reported the whole megillah, including that glad news.

Was it news? Yes. Thanks to the talents of a consummate reporter, it was probably one of the best-read pieces in the features department in those days. And it was news.

But it was just one of stories many Skip gave us.

Thank you for the opportunity to nominate him. It is an honor.

Cordially,

Ruth Holladay
ruth@ruthholladay.com
1-317-371-3925

Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame
940 E. Seventh St.
Bloomington, IN 4740

August 20, 2011

Dear officers and members of the board:

I am writing to support the nomination of Howard K. "Skip" Hess for induction into the Hall of Fame. Some of you worked with me and Skip years ago and no doubt remember our mutual years together at the *Indianapolis Star and News*. So I won't spend much time in this letter reviewing Skip's resume. You know that for many years Skip was one of the *News'* leading investigative reporters, responsible for award-winning stories on Gordon Faulkner, Bill Hudnut and other prominent officials.

Instead, I want to talk to you about the part of Skip that you won't find in his clip file. As some of you know, Skip is a dear friend of mine and has been for more than 20 years. I have seen him in many situations – on Little League fields, in fishing boats, at backyard socials, in hospital rooms – you name it. And what has always struck me on these occasions is the depth and breadth of Skip's reach in the community. He knows people *everywhere*. No matter where we are, people are always coming up to him. Usually, they want to thank him (sometimes in whispered tones) for the stories he has written - even stories written years earlier.

To most reporters, all these people would represent tremendous potential sources. And for Skip, they were. They were the key to many

of the stories he broke, providing inside information that other reporters could not get.

But the important thing is that they weren't just sources. To Skip, they were people. And that single point is what I want to emphasize. People *trusted* Skip. They had faith in him. For a lot of them, Skip was the only journalist they had ever known. Often times, these were not sophisticated people. They didn't understand all the nuances of "on-the-record" or "off-the-record" or "deep background." But they did know that something was not right where they worked or worshipped, and they knew that if they could just find a newspaperman to listen to them, then maybe they could fix the problem. More often than not, that newspaperman was Skip.

And he never let them down. Even if he didn't end up writing a story (or writing the story they wanted), people felt they had been heard. They felt they had been treated fairly. And in a thousand small interactions like this, Skip built credibility --- not just for himself, but for the *News* and for journalism in general.

Skip is what we now might call an ambassador for journalism. But he was much more than that. For a lot of Hoosiers, he was the embodiment of it. He was what they thought of when they heard the word "journalist."

Some of this, I'm sure, owes to his upbringing. He grew up in the oil fields of southern Illinois – a rough place, if you've ever been there -- and he never forgot the little guy. He knew how to talk to regular people on bar stools, and he knew how to gain – and even more important – he knew how to *earn* their trust.

Yes, he got lots of awards for his reporting. Powerful people lost their jobs and sometimes went to jail. But Skip's lasting contribution to journalism in Indiana isn't plaques on a wall. It's the lasting memory of everyday Hoosiers whose lives were made better by a reporter they all called Skip.

I can't think of a more profound contribution to the legacy of journalism in Indiana, and I hope you feel the same way.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 773-575-2252 or write me at jhallinan@sbcglobal.net.

Best regards,

Joe Hallinan

August 30, 2011

The Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame
Attn: Lawrence P. Taylor, Executive Director
PO Box 785
Bloomington IN 47402

Dear Mr. Taylor:

We are delighted to have an opportunity to support the nomination of our friend and former colleague, Howard K. "Skip" Hess, for a spot in the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame.

Early in our careers as journalists, we knew Skip as a veteran investigative reporter and mentor at *The Indianapolis News*. Skip worked 32 years at *The News*, covering nearly every beat and working on some of the most consequential journalistic investigations the city of Indianapolis has ever seen.

Undoubtedly there will be other nominators who will go into great detail about Skip's formative role in investigating such prominent politicians as Superintendent of Public Education Harold Negley, Commissioner of the Department of Correction Gordon Faulkner, and Secretary of State Larry Conrad. In each of those cases, Skip's work had significant consequences ranging from resignations to criminal convictions.

Surely some will mention his fine reporting that exposed abuses and sparked reform at Central State Hospital. Stories like these exemplify the kind of public service newspapers can and should provide, and we believe they, on their own merit, are enough to earn Skip a spot in the Hall of Fame.

But those stories were background for us when we met Skip in the late 1980s. We knew him on a more personal level, but one that we think is equally important to his legacy as a potential Hall of Fame inductee. We knew him as a friend who helped guide us in our careers, as he did for scores of other up-and-coming journalists over the course of his three decades at *The News*. Skip was always available to offer advice, consultation and other assistance on to other reporters, whether they were working on routine day-to-day coverage or complex long-term projects. He did so not only with deep knowledge but also a characteristic sense of humor that made him a magnetic presence in the newsroom.

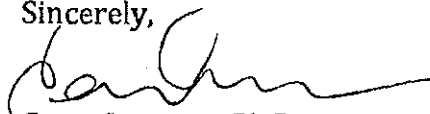
The importance of this role in the furthering of a profession cannot be overstated. Skip has had a far-reaching impact on journalism, both in Indiana and around the country, that will continue to spread through the ripple effect good mentoring creates. In our case, we went on to work together as investigative producers at WTHR in Indianapolis, winning numerous national awards (including the du-Pont Columbia Award, broadcast journalism's equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize), and now to separate careers producing award-winning investigations at CNN and teaching a new generation of journalists at Ball State University.

The enduring nature of Skip's achievement as a mentor is all the more impressive when you consider that with the many awards he won and the countless local, state and federal investigations his reporting prompted, he could easily have jumped to bigger newspapers and had a bigger platform for his journalism. Fortunately for us and for all Hoosiers, he chose to stay in Indiana.

For his devotion to journalism of the highest quality, for his untiring efforts to right wrongs and expose those who violated the public trust, for his generosity in helping younger generations of journalists, and for his commitment to pursuing his profession in the Indiana he loves, we urge you to find a place in the Hall of Fame for Skip Hess.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Gerry Lanosga, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Journalism
Ball State University

Indianapolis News, 1989-1997



Kathleen M. Johnston
Senior Investigative Producer
CNN

Indianapolis News, 1985-1997

Skip Hess awards:

On Oct. 2, 1999, Indiana Gov. Frank O'Bannon named Skip "Sagamore of the Wabash."

On that same date, Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith proclaimed it "Howard K. 'Skip' Hess Day" in Indy

In 1974, The Indianapolis News nominated Skip for the Pulitzer Prize for his series of articles on widespread neglect of patients at all Indiana mental health hospitals.

The News also nominated Skip for the Pulitzer Prize in 1987 for a series on corruption in the Indiana Department of Corrections.

1968- CASPER Award (Community Appreciation for Service in Public Enlightenment and Relations) presented The Community Service Council of Metropolitan Indianapolis, Inc.

1970- CASPER Award

1970- International Association of Firefighters Award for Outstanding Achievement and Distinguished Reporting

1973- Hoosier State Press Award-Best Community Service

- 1973- Eugene J. Cadou Memorial Award
- 1973- Indianapolis Press Club Award—Best Series of Stories
- 1974- CASPER Award
- 1974- Indiana Public Health Association, Inc.'s "Mass Media Distinguished Service Award
- 1978- Indianapolis Press Club Award—1st Place
- 1981- United Press International Award—"Steven Judy, Stupid Women"
- 1981- United Senior Action Award—For Outstanding coverage of Issues Affecting Older Hoosiers
- 1981- Hoosier State Press Award—Best News Story under Pressure of Deadline
- 1983 - Indianapolis Magazine Award—"Best of Indianapolis for Investigating Reporting"
- 1984- Hoosier State Press Association Award—Newspaper Reporting
- 1984- Indianapolis Magazine Award—"Best of Indianapolis for Investigating Reporting"
- 1984- Indiana Chapter of The Society of Professional Journalists (Sigma Delta Chi)—Investigating Reporting

- 1984- United Press International Hortense Myers Award—
“Bailbonds the cost of Neglect”
- 1984- United Press International Award—Best Investigating
Reporting, “Bail Bonds”
- 1984- CASPER Award
- 1985- United Press International Hortense Myers Award—
“The Harold Negley Affair”
- 1985- United Press International Award—Best Investigating
Reporting, “Negley Campaign Funds”
- 1985- Associated Press Managing Editor Award—“Non-
deadline News
- 1985- CASPER Award
- 1985- Indiana Associated Press—“Community Affairs/Public
Interest”
- 1986- Indianapolis Magazine Award—“Best of Indianapolis
for Investigating Reporting”
- 1986- Hoosier State Press Association Award—
“Distinguished Community Service”
- 1987- Indianapolis Magazine Award—“Best of Indianapolis
for Investigating Reporting”

- 1987- Hoosier State Press Association Award—
“Distinguished Community Service”
- 1987- Indiana Associated Press—“Community Affairs/Public
Interest”
- 1987- National Prisoner Rights Award—for Outstanding
Investigating Reporting for a series on corruption in
the Indiana Dept. of Corrections
- 1989- Indianapolis Magazine Award—“Best of Indianapolis
for Investigating Reporting”
- 1993- Laura Owen Miller Bamberger Award—“For
Outstanding Writing”

Other-

The Indiana Collegiate Press Association’s “Honorary Fellow of
The ICPA; The Exchange Club of Indianapolis; Sigma Delta Chi.
He also lectured at Indiana University, Ball State University,
IUPUI, Indianapolis Public Schools, United States Army Defense
Information School and Indiana service clubs.

Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame
DePauw University Archives
400 S. College Avenue
P.O. Box 37
Greencastle, Indiana 46135

September 29, 2005

To the Selection Committee:

Please accept my nomination of Howard K. "Skip" Hess as a candidate for induction into the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame.

For the past 17 years, it's been my pleasure to know Hess as a friend, mentor and colleague with an outstanding commitment to journalistic excellence. His work of more than three decades at The Indianapolis News (and later the merged operation of The News and The Indianapolis Star) has had a strong and lasting impact on the city of Indianapolis.

I can also say without reservation that there are many young journalists around the country who count him as a primary influence in their lives and careers. They include some who have earned the highest honors in their fields, such as Joe Hallinan, a Pulitzer Prize winner who works at the Wall Street Journal, and Kathleen Johnston, a CNN producer who, along with myself, won one of broadcasting's biggest prizes, a duPont-Columbia award. Journalists like that are now making positive contributions in their communities -- and at least some of that can be credited back to the ripple effect of mentors like Skip Hess.

Hess joined The Indianapolis News in 1967 after working as sports editor at the Kokomo Morning Times, among other stints. One of his first big stories was the crash of Allegheny Airlines flight 853 near Shelbyville in 1969. Jumping into action from his home ten minutes away, Hess was the first reporter on the scene and, in fact, arrived before most of the emergency personnel. What he saw instilled an extraordinary empathy for human suffering that not only yielded vivid accounts of Indiana's deadliest airline crash but also informed his reporting throughout the rest of his career.

During his years with The News, Hess worked, as you might expect, in just about every capacity a reporter could. But it was his exceptional work as a member of the paper's investigative team that many will recall best. Among the uncompromising investigations Hess helped bring to print were projects that uncovered corruption in the offices of Superintendent of Public Education Harold Negley and Commissioner of Correction Gordon Faulkner. The revelations cost both officials their jobs. Negley, accused of spending campaign funds for personal use, resigned and pleaded guilty to ghost employment; Faulkner, accused of shaking down a company seeking business with his

department, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit theft. Having reporters like Hess scrutinizing officials in that way helped bring a more professional, accountable tone to state governance in Indiana, a long-term change that has served Hoosier citizens well.

But Hess's work wasn't all about money and politics. He might tell you one of the most important projects he ever worked on was the story about abuse of forgotten and vulnerable patients at the old Central State Hospital. Stories like that arose from a strong sense of fairness, outrage and social justice that drove Hess professionally. He also nurtured that passion in his co-workers and the younger journalists who looked to him as a newsroom leader.

"I never, ever, ever remember a day when I didn't want to go to work," Hess was once quoted about his work at The News.

That's still true, even though he took an early retirement in 1999 when The News published for the last time. In his retirement, he's enjoying his other passions – fishing and the outdoors – but still keeping his hand in the business by writing a weekly outdoors column for The Star. And, true to his nature, Hess's columns aren't just about camping and catching bass. Even when it comes to the outdoors, he has held onto that passion for justice that ultimately motivates a great journalist.

Here is what he wrote earlier this year after stumbling on a horrific scene at an idyllic Boundary Waters fishing spot: "Someone had drenched the turtle in a flammable liquid, ignited the fuel, and watched as the animal had clawed its way in sand to the edge of the water, where it stood, head erect, legs and tail extended and burned to death. I silently apologized to the charred remains and to the other turtles, eagles, loons, beavers, bears, moose, fish, deer, crows and all the other wildlife. And I sadly left God's country, truly ashamed of my species."

Those are strong words from a strong journalist who would make a first-rate addition to the Hall of Fame. I am proud to nominate Skip Hess for that honor. I and many others are also prepared to provide materials in support of this nomination. Please feel free to contact me at 317-655-5809 or glanosga@wthr.com.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gerry Lanosga
Investigative Producer
WTHR-TV
(Formerly of The Indianapolis New/The Indianapolis Star)



1000 North Meridian St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204

317.636.1313

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame
DePauw University Archives
400 S. College Avenue
P.O. Box 37
Greencastle, Indiana 46135

September 29, 2005

To the Selection Committee:

Please accept my nomination of Howard K. "Skip" Hess as a candidate for induction into the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame.

For the past 17 years, it's been my pleasure to know Hess as a friend, mentor and colleague with an outstanding commitment to journalistic excellence. His work of more than three decades at The Indianapolis News (and later the merged operation of The News and The Indianapolis Star) has had a strong and lasting impact on the city of Indianapolis.

I can also say without reservation that there are many young journalists around the country who count him as a primary influence in their lives and careers. They include some who have earned the highest honors in their fields, such as Joe Hallinan, a Pulitzer Prize winner who works at the Wall Street Journal, and Kathleen Johnston, a CNN producer who, along with myself, won one of broadcasting's biggest prizes, a duPont-Columbia award. Journalists like that are now making positive contributions in their communities – and at least some of that can be credited back to the ripple effect of mentors like Skip Hess.

Hess joined The Indianapolis News in 1967 after working as sports editor at the Kokomo Morning Times, among other stints. One of his first big stories was the crash of Allegheny Airlines flight 853 near Shelbyville in 1969. Jumping into action from his home ten minutes away, Hess was the first reporter on the scene and, in fact, arrived before most of the emergency personnel. What he saw instilled an extraordinary empathy for human suffering that not only yielded vivid accounts of Indiana's deadliest airline crash but also informed his reporting throughout the rest of his career.

During his years with The News, Hess worked, as you might expect, in just about every capacity a reporter could. But it was his exceptional work as a member of the paper's investigative team that many will recall best. Among the uncompromising investigations Hess helped bring to print were projects that uncovered corruption in the offices of Superintendent of Public Education Harold Negley and Commissioner of Correction Gordon Faulkner. The revelations cost both officials their jobs. Negley, accused of spending campaign funds for personal use, resigned and pleaded guilty to ghost employment; Faulkner, accused of shaking down a company seeking business with

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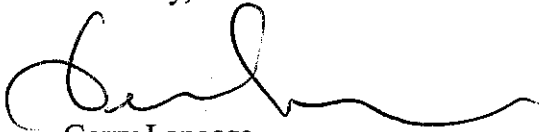
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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Gerry Lanosga
Investigative Producer
WTHR-TV

(Formerly of The Indianapolis New/The Indianapolis Star)

SEP 28 2005

Wesley W. Wilson
Executive Secretary
Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame
Sept. 23, 2005

Dear Mr. Wilson:

I would like to nominate Howard K. "Skip" Hess for induction into the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame. Skip worked at the old Indianapolis News for 32 years, retiring in 1999 when the news closed. I worked opposite him, at the Indianapolis Star, from 1984-1991.

Without a doubt, Skip was one of the premiere investigative reporters of his day. He wrote hard-hitting investigations, including stories in the mid-1980s that unearthed corruption in the Indiana Department of Education under Superintendent Harold Negley and in the Indiana Department of Correction under Commissioner Gordon Faulkner, forcing both men from office.

He pushed hard to get stories, but never made things up. He's one of the most honest, trustworthy men I have ever known – no small feat in this day when many journalists have been caught fabricating stories.

Skip himself was accused of this once, in a well-known incident involving the late publisher of the News and the Star, Eugene Pulliam. In the early 1970s Skip wrote a story about an airplane crash. He convinced a National Transportation Safety Board employee to read him the transcript of the cockpit recorder.

His article appeared in the paper that day. Apparently, the employee denied reading the transcript to Hess. The next day, Hess was called into Mr. Pulliam's office and found himself face-to-face with several NTSB officials.

"Skip, these people are accusing you of fabricating that story yesterday," Mr. Pulliam said. "I want to ask you: Did you fabricate that story?"

He replied that he had not. "That's good enough for me," Mr. Pulliam said. "I stand by my reporter. Now I want everyone out of my office."

Skip still lives in Indianapolis and writes occasional columns for the Star. I can provide much more information about him if you would like. For now, though, I hope this will suffice.

If you need to reach me, my number here at The Wall Street Journal is 312-750-4105.

Best regards,


Joe Hallinan