

DON BRADLEY, 73, (Don Burian), who started his broadcasting career 58 years ago, died October 16, 2018, of a heart attack.

According to his wife of 49 years, Connie, "Don was officially retired, but missed it terribly."

While he was 15, in high school, he worked part-time in radio. He attended Syracuse and worked at WCHN-AM. He left Syracuse, went into the U. S. Air Force for four years, and was stationed for a time in Brindisi, Italy.

While in and after the Air Force, he worked in Springfield, Massachusetts at WSPR-AM, where the general manager suggested he use the air name, 'Don Bradley.'

Don moved to Ft. Wayne, Indiana's WGL-AM, then to WIFE-AM in Indianapolis. He returned to Ft. Wayne to WLYV-AM. Next stop: Waterloo, Iowa's 50,000 watt WHO-AM. His final radio job was at WNAB-AM in Bridgeport, Connecticut. His TV news career began at WTNH Action News 8, in New Haven as Assignment Editor.

He moved on to WAND-TV, Decatur, Illinois; WLKY-TV in Louisville, Kentucky; KTUL-TV, Tulsa, Oklahoma; Next, it was back to WTNH as News Director; KTVI, St. Louis at KTVI; WHBQ-TV Memphis, Tennessee; WPTA-TV Fort Wayne; KCEN-TV, Waco, Texas; and finally, KAVU-TV, Victoria, Texas. Then he retired several years ago."

Connie said they had planned to move back to Ft. Wayne, where they had family. She is planning to have a memorial service for Don in November, in Ft. Wayne. Connie suggested making donations to the RTNDA or NABJ in Don's memory.

Kenn Venit, longtime broadcast journalist, consultant, and adjunct professor, worked as a colleague of Don's at WTNH, and later was his Primo Newservice consultant at WPTA and WHBQ. He noted, "Don was a consummate news person, valuing accuracy, fairness, and quality above all else. He was a tireless news director, always working long hours and helping to launch and/or improve many careers along the way. He and Connie were looking forward to their 50th anniversary in 2019. She said the outpouring of comments about Don via Facebook (www.facebook.com/connie.burian) has been wonderful, and are welcomed, noting some folks mention how he gave them their start or nurtured their careers."

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