

# Leonard Troy "L.T." Anderson

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## Writer L.T. Anderson mourned

By Audrey Schwitzerlette  
REGISTER-HERALD REPORTER

Longtime newspaperman L.T. Anderson, whose columns appeared regularly in The Register-Herald, died Tuesday as a result of cancer.

He was 83.

The Hinton native shortened his name from Leonard Troy Anderson to L.T. Anderson because it was too long for the short columns that dominated newspaper design when he began his career at The Charleston Gazette in the 1950s, his son, John, said Tuesday.

Anderson's newspaper career also included the Hinton Daily News, where he served as city editor, and the Charleston Daily Mail, for whom he began writing columns on a freelance basis after retiring from The Charleston Gazette.

He received a journalism degree from Marshall College and was a combat veteran of World War II. As a member of the Army Air Corps, he earned five Air Medals.

Anderson was an early opponent of the war in Vietnam and spoke out vehemently against censorship in Kanawha County textbooks in his commentaries. In the 1970s, his writing style earned him a first runner-up placement



Anderson

for a Pulitzer Prize in the category of distinguished columnists.

His columns appeared on Fridays in The Register-Herald as recently as late March, when he became too ill to continue writing.

Whether they agreed or disagreed with his opinions, readers liked Anderson because they appreciated his mastery of the craft of writing, Daily Mail editor Nanya Friend

said.

"I always knew if I ran into a real newspaper reader if they mentioned L.T. Anderson," Friend said. "Readers have always appreciated his ability to use the language. His fans were devoted, and I think it was just his writing ability and his very pithy and often scathing commentary that they appreciated."

"Our whole staff was saddened to hear about his death."

Even though Anderson wrote from his home, Daily Mail staffers considered him part of their newsroom family "because he made such a contribution to the newspaper," Friend added. "We just felt like we lost a family member."

"As much as we have missed him, readers have missed him even more,"

Friend added. "He had a tremendous following. ... My heart goes out to his family."

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Anderson is survived by his wife, Anna Jean Anderson of Charleston; his son, John Anderson of Fort Wayne, Ind., and his daughter, Martha Sprowles of Langhorne, Pa., with whom he was staying when he died under Hospice care.

There will be no service.

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