

DICKERMAN, Andrew
2-14-2016

ELSEWHERE



DICKERMAN, ANDREW

73, who photographed the news and the people of R.I. for The Providence Journal for 45 years, died Feb. 14 while traveling in Thailand.

As his longtime colleague, columnist Bob Kerr said, "Damn, that's terrible news."

Many friends and colleagues are comforted that Dickerman died doing something he loved: meeting the people and exploring Thailand, Malaysia and Myanmar and sharing those images and stories on Facebook.

Over the years, Dickerman has ventured on numerous exotic trips through Mexico and Guatemala, avoiding tourist areas. He would ride the local buses, savor foods from streetside vendors and stay in hostels with just his camera and a backpack. His daughter joined him for several journeys, including a volunteer stint for Common Hope in Guatemala.

Dickerman, who started at The Journal in 1969, was remembered by his boss, Michael Delaney, for the determination and passion in photographing everything from hurricanes and the Blizzard of 78 to the Folk and Jazz Festivals and Tall Ships in Newport.

In covering Rhode Island news for over 45 years, Dickerman developed friendship and respect with many, particularly young artists and activists as well as the two generations of Chafees who served this state as governor and senator.

Former Journal reporter Bruce DeSilva remembers the poignant images Dickerman captured in the early 1980s of residents at the Ladd School in Exeter which once warehoused the mentally handicapped. DeSilva credits Dickerman's powerful images of an elderly woman huddled in a jail-like cell with helping to shut down that institution.

Much of his work focused on protecting the environment and aiding the disadvantaged. He traveled to Alaska for stories on endangered whales. Closer to home, he photographed challenges in the classrooms and the overflowing landfill. In his spare time, he mentored many young photographers interested in journalism. He was an ardent member of the Newspaper Guild.

In 2008, Dickerman survived cancer and a few years later a serious bicycle crash: he made it through those struggles supported by his family and many friends. He enjoyed running, bicycling, sailing and had his pilot's license. Andy taught his daughter how to bake and often bragged about the ribbons he won for his bread and pies at the fair on the Vineyard.

Dickerman who grew up in Manhattan, is predeceased by his parents Abraham and Dorothy Dickerman. He is survived by his amazing daughter Ariel Summer Dorothy Dickerman and her partner, Bob Sommer; a sister, Linda Dickerman and her wife Barbara Hirsch; and cousin, Arlene Iozia. He has so many kind friends scattered in Providence, Martha's Vineyard and where ever Andy journeyed.

To honor Andy's generous spirit, his family suggests donations to Common Hope (www.commonhope.org), which fosters education for kids in Guatemala (where Andy and his daughter have volunteered) or that you mentor a developing mind or befriend an immigrant or a traveler.

There will be a service Sunday, February 28th at 4 p.m. at Congregation Agudas Achim, at 901 N Main St, Attleboro, Ma. which will be followed by dinner in the synagogue's social hall.

ProJo 2/19/16

