

Dottie McGrew

Despite the fact that she did not intend to become a reporter, Dottie McGrew had the most famous byline in North Canton through the 80s, 90s, and early 2000s. Colleague Donna Nickel has written that she had “a certain perspective and magic to her stories.”

Dottie was born in 1937 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to parents Georgina and Peter Mathos. She and her younger sister, Carol, grew up in the Pittsburgh suburb of Homestead with a large and loving extended family. She graduated from Taylor Allderdice High School in Pittsburgh in 1954.

After high school, Dottie attended Eastern Nazarene College in Massachusetts and majored in English. There, she met her husband, Daniel, who had grown up in Dover, Ohio. They married shortly after graduation and, in 1960, they moved to North Canton.

Dottie worked as an executive secretary at the East Ohio Gas Company, at the Hoover Company, and later at E. W. Bliss. Nevertheless, Dan's career required them to move in and out of North Canton. After their son, Jeff, was born, they made it a priority to settle permanently in North Canton, and, in 1972, they were finally able to stop the moves.

Dottie became involved with many local organizations. She has worked with the Hoover Historical Society, the League of Women's Voters, the First Ladies National Historical Site, the Canton Art Gallery, the North Canton Heritage Society, and the service league PEO International. She served on the Women's Board of Aultman Hospital and on the Alumni Board of Kent State University's Stark Campus. In the course of her work with her these organizations, she wrote a number of newsletters and press releases.

Eventually, Bernie Clements who owned and operated the North Canton Sun, convinced her to work for him. For

decades she wrote about individuals, businesses, and events in North Canton. In addition to The Sun, Dottie was a staff reporter and columnist for the Akron Beacon Journal, and Our Town newspaper. She reported on North Canton news for WHBC. She covered North Canton City Council and School Board meetings for over 20 years. She also authored many family histories – including the family of Dr. Joseph Warburton.

Dottie was a very active member of Christ Presbyterian Church in Canton. She was an ordained church elder and created several unique ministries including prayer shawls for newly baptized infants. She was on the Welcoming Committee and greeted visitors to service on Sunday with the faith in God that was so obviously central to her life.

Dottie's hobbies included reading and traveling. She loved Sanibel Island as well as her trips to Scotland and Ireland. She was an avid gardener and loved spending time with her "lunch bunch" of ladies with whom she had decades

of friendship in North Canton. Dottie passed away in January of 2022 with her loving husband watching over her.

Dottie McGrew's commitment to the community of North Canton is exemplary. It is with gratitude that the North Canton Alumni Association receives her into its 2023 class of the Hall of Distinction.