

## Declaration in Memory of Kevin Kaufman

February 26, 2019


The 18<sup>th</sup> century French diplomat Talleyrand wrote, "Without freedom of the press, there can be no representative government." Kevin Kaufman understood that as well as anyone. During 25 years as an editor of the *Daily Camera*, Kevin lead a newsroom staff that held Boulder County local governments accountable and made us better. When elected officials made no sense, Kevin called it "blather"—or worse. When they accomplished good things for the community, Kevin made sure it was widely known. Kevin didn't pick favorites; he just shined a light on what was happening and allowed the community to form their own judgments.

Kevin insisted that his reporters be objective but direct, calling things as they saw them. He had no tolerance for spin, but he was unfailingly fair. City and county staff members, city council members, and county commissioners all knew that Kevin would hold them accountable for their words and their actions. But, in return, they knew that they could expect honest coverage from Kevin. In short, Kevin kept us on our toes.

But, Kevin did not view himself as the enemy of government. Rather, he recognized that government and a free press have missions that are very much aligned: To ensure that members of the community understand what is happening and have opportunities to engage with their municipal authorities and elected officials. Without democratic government, the press would have little reason to exist. Without the press, democratic government cannot operate. Kevin embraced this and made fair and honest reporting of government his life's work.

Under Kevin's quarter-century of leadership, the *Daily Camera* served as Boulder County's newspaper of record in a rapidly evolving media environment. When Kevin joined the *Camera* as assistant city editor in 1994, the news was printed once a day on broadsheet paper and Microsoft was launching its first webpage. By the time of Kevin's passing a few weeks ago, the *Daily Camera's* readership largely accessed the news online, with stories posted around the clock. As the newspaper's executive editor, Kevin managed that transition deftly, while ensuring that the highest standards of journalism were never compromised, regardless of how the news was published.

Kevin could infuriate us and embarrass us. But, if we are angry or ashamed, it is only because Kevin held up a mirror and showed us who we are. And he made us better for it. For that, the City Council of the City of Boulder declares **February 26, 2019, as Kevin Kaufman Day**, and we ask the entire Boulder community to thank him and to remember him.



Suzanne Jones, Mayor

