

## Henry G Francis 1926-2017

ACBL Bulletin Editor Emeritus Henry Francis died at his home on 1 August.

In the early 1940's Henry embarked on a career in journalism and in 1947 he became a sportswriter for the *Boston Traveler* and the *Boston Herald*, serving as copy, layout sports and news editor until both papers ceased publication in 1972.

Meanwhile Henry had developed a passion for bridge, as a player, tournament reporter, club director and owner, and ACBL tournament director at the sectional, regional and national level. Between 1965 and 1990 he wrote a weekly bridge column for the *Boston Herald* and the *Boston Herald-American* and was the founder and Editor of the *New England Bridge Bulletin* from 1955-1964 and 1967-1972. Those two careers came together when the papers closed down. The ACBL was relocating to Memphis and they needed an Editor for the Bulletin. That proved to be a catalyst for a remarkable period of activity that lasted for more than three decades. During his time in Memphis, he edited the monthly ACBL magazine and the Bulletins at the NABCs and three editions of *The Official Encyclopaedia of Bridge*. Between 1973 and 1989 he was the Editor of the annual *World Championship Book* and acted as Chief Editor to the WBF between 1977 and 1998.

Having served as Vice President for two years he was elected President of the International Bridge Press Association, an office he held between 1996 and 2003. In 1998 Henry was named as the ACBL Honorary Member of the Year and in 2003 he was elected to the Hall of Fame as winner of the Blackwood award.

He and his wife Dorothy frequently worked together - one of their most enjoyable engagements was to Edit the Bulletins at the annual Bermuda Regional.

Henry's interest in bridge never faded - he played in clubs and tournaments and ran his own Thursday night game in Memphis for many years.

You can see some of the many tributes to Henry at:  
<http://bridgewinners.com/article/view/henry-g-francis/>