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Prof. George A. Flynn

George A. Flynn, Ph.D., passed away Nov. 4, 2016 at age 79. He began his newspaper career as a copy boy at the Miami Herald in the 1950s and was filing stories and photographs for the Williamson County Sun in Texas more than a decade after his retirement.

Born Aug. 7, 1937 in Quantico, Va., Flynn earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Miami in 1961. He was commissioned as an ensign in the U.S. Navy where he served a reserve tour in the Mediterranean and Caribbean, and he participated in the Cuban Blockade aboard the USS Saratoga aircraft carrier. He returned to the Miami Herald after military service, spending the next 17 years as Key West bureau chief, general assignment reporter, Action Line editor, Fort Lauderdale bureau chief and county government reporter. He left the Herald in 1973 to earn a master's degree in political science at Florida Atlantic University. He taught for two years at Texas A&M before completing his doctorate at North Texas State University. He then taught for five years at Arizona State University.

Flynn taught at Fresno State from 1985 until his retirement in 2000 as professor emeritus of journalism. He taught courses newswriting, reporting, copy editing and newspaper production. In Fresno, he and his wife, Carol — an accomplished special education teacher — hosted annual holiday dinners for international students and entertained journalism students at pizza, spaghetti and taco dinner nights. The Flynn's turned their Volkswagen camper, which they used for their many travels across the United States and Canada, into a food truck to make hamburgers and hot dogs for the college newspaper staff. Flynn turned their home into mini museum of salvaged mechanical gizmos including old typewriters, telephones, clocks and fans.

Flynn retired to Georgetown, Texas where he taught classes and gave lectures on newspapers and mass media at Senior University Georgetown. His freelance work for the Sun, his hometown paper, enabled him to satisfy his insatiable curiosity by walking up to anyone at community events and asking them what was going on, as he produced photos and human interest stories. He continued being the enquiring reporter until his health no longer allowed.