

# Neil Craig

Class of 1957

The first two years of Neil Craig's high school career were the most active. He was in the Junior Red Cross, Soc and Buskin Society, a prom waiter, Hi-Y Vice President, football, swimming, golf, and manager for the basketball team. A construction accident required him to miss an entire academic year. However, he was able to continue his membership in the WHS Student Voice, a foundation that paved the way for his life's work in journalism.



Craig graduated from Ashland College in 1965 with a degree in Education and Broadcasting. He spent six months as a teacher before taking radio jobs in Washington, Pennsylvania and Michigan. From there he moved to Atlanta where he was a news reporter for WQXI-AM 790. In his first story, he reported on the events surrounding the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., including the discovery of James Earl Ray's abandoned car.

In 1971 he joined WXIA-TV in Atlanta where he spent the next thirty years as news anchor, reporter, and editor for the station. In 2001 he received the coveted Silver Circle Award given by the National Television Academy.

Craig was known for his ability to inject a human element into his reporting. Despite covering often tragic subject matter, he said that meeting new people everyday made the work rewarding. "Once in a while somebody comes along that sparks something inside you, and makes you feel like the whole world isn't terrible." he said.

In his tenure in Atlanta news, Craig covered numerous high-profile stories, including the Centennial Park bombing, all of which earned him the admiration of his peers. WXIA station manager Cal Callaway said of Craig, "I think a true indication is the amount of respect this department has for Neil. He is the most respected reporter I have ever worked with."

Neil Craig retired from broadcasting in 2001 following quadruple bypass surgery. He passed away this year.

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