

Honored to have known Dalmath

I was absolutely floored to learn of the death of Gabe Dalmath. We have lost a true gentleman way too early.

I cut my teeth in TV news at WROC-TV, straight out of college in the mid-'70s. I met Gabe when we were out covering the same story one day. He was cordial from the start and helped me learn that competition in the news business didn't have to be cutthroat. He remained a friend.

Gabe and I stayed in touch when I moved on to TV news jobs in Miami and Orlando. I was delighted when we ran into each other at the National Association of Broadcasters convention in Las Vegas in April. We spent time catching up on each other's business ventures. Then we reminisced about Rochester ... the people we knew, the people we covered ... and the colleagues who had died.

April. Just a few months ago.

I wanted greater Rochester to know that from a former competitor's perspective, Gabe was a class act and a nice guy.

STEVE RONDINARO

BOONE,

NORTH CAROLINA

The writer owns and operates Mountain Television Network.

Congratulations to your paper, staff

Congratulations to the *Democrat and Chronicle* for being honored as a "Newspaper of Distinction" by the New York State Associated Press Association. I always thought you were distinctive, but what do I know? It was great to see the honor bestowed in "one of the oldest and most competitive journalistic competitions ... in the state."

Also, out-of-state judges and a high number of entries make it tough competition.

It has to be tough putting the paper out seven days a week and always at my door bright and early. It is easy to take for granted like many things I call "the blessing of the ordinary."

I am glad you received this recognition, proving your work is extraordinary.

DOUG HICKERSON

BROCKPORT

Would you like to thank someone?

Send your note to Pats on the Back, Democrat and Chronicle, 55 Exchange Blvd., Rochester, NY 14614. Please include your daytime telephone number.

Fax: (585) 258-2356.

E-mail: dcreditpage@DemocratandChronicle.com