

Newsday

Long Islander of the Century™

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produced by the Newsday Marketing Department*

*Monday – Friday Newsday presents
another nominee. Later this year, vote for
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Paul Townsend

Editor of "Long Island Business News" Helps Shape Economy



Photo: Newsday

For more than half a century, Paul Townsend has been an institution in Long Island's business community. A leading advocate for the island's economic development, he became known for appearing at countless organizations' meetings — even showing up in a wheelchair after suffering a stroke in the mid-1990's.

His list of achievements is long and varied. He was instrumental in the establishment of North Shore University Hospital, as well as Long Island's first Equity theater in Mineola. He also founded the Mill River and Old Westbury golf clubs, which differ from many country clubs by being non-sectarian. He fought Robert Moses' efforts to build a road through the sand dunes of Fire Island, working with the federal government to create the Fire Island National Seashore instead. He also promoted the idea of combining Nassau and Suffolk into a single county.

Townsend wielded his profound influence with the printed word, as well. In 1953, he took over as editor of the "Long Island Business News," with his wife Terry Townsend serving as publisher. In the forty-five years that followed, he turned the weekly newspaper into an important business force. He used his regular column, "The Townsend Letter," to promote the causes he supported and to criticize government bureaucrats, as well as neighborhood groups he believed stood in the way of progress. Townsend sold the paper in 1998.

A tenth generation Long Islander, Bellport resident Townsend is a descendant of merchant and writer Robert Townsend who was a member of the Culper Spy Ring, which spied for George Washington during the Revolutionary War.

—Cynthia Blair

MILESTONES

in the life of Paul Townsend

- 1919 - Born February 22
- 1936 - Graduates from Huntington High School
- 1971 - Receives honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Hofstra University
- 1984 - Receives Honorary Doctor of Law degree from Dowling College
- 1991 - Receives Dowling College's 27th Annual Distinguished Citizen Award with his wife, Terry Townsend
- 1998 - Sells "Long Island Business News" to Dolan Media Co.

FLASHBACK

to 1953 - the year...

- Townsend takes over as editor of "Long Island Business News"
- Experiments with mice link cancer to tobacco tar
- A&P sells 2-quart containers of milk for 43¢ each
- The first atomic shell is fired at the Nevada Training Grounds
- The gold in Fort Knox is counted and is valued at \$30,442,415,581.70
- "Topper" premieres on CBS