

# God Speed Bob Schaeffer

**By Patrick Weadon**

I was stunned to learn of the passing of Bob Schaeffer last month. Many of you who read "The Voice" on a regular basis may question my sincerity, but I assure you I have never been more serious in my life when I tell you I had immense respect and admiration, not only for Bob's journalistic prowess, but also for his life-long devotion to his country.

It was his dynamic and forceful prose that prompted me to ask the management of "The Voice" to allow me to respond in

kind.

During the 1960 Presidential campaign the famous Republican statesman Barry Goldwater once proposed to John Kennedy that rather than engage in the usual political posturing, they meet "on the stump" at selected locations and debate the issues ala Lincoln and Douglas.

In my heart I wanted our exchanges to be in this mold. Sometimes they were and sometimes they were not, but above all I believe our debates within the pages of the newspaper made

people think about and consider the major issues of the day.

The Irish poet James Joyce once wrote that it is "better to pass boldly into that other world, in the full glory of some passion, than to fade and wither dimly with age." Joyce may have had someone else in mind when he wrote those words, but for me they will always remind me of the passion and zeal of Mr. Bob Schaeffer in his efforts to help us understand the "Truth" as he saw it.

God Speed Bob, you truly will be missed.