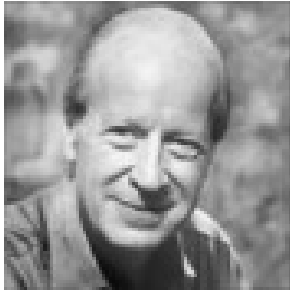


Austin H. Kiplinger, 1918 - 2015



Austin H. Kiplinger, a journalist and financial publisher who was a leader in the civic and cultural life of Washington and Montgomery County for more than seven decades, died November 20, 2015 at Montgomery Hospice's Casey House in Rockville, MD, after a brief illness under hospice care at his home in Bethesda. He was 97. Born in Washington, DC on September 19, 1918, Austin Huntington Kiplinger was reared in D.C. and Arlington, VA, graduating from Western High School in Georgetown in 1935. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Cornell in 1939, as a government major and member of Telluride Association and Delta Upsilon fraternity. He studied economics at Harvard the following year. His professional reporting was first published when he was 18. Several of his stories about the 1936 presidential campaign were picked up by the Associated Press. Kiplinger became a general-assignment reporter on the San Francisco Chronicle in 1940. Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, he enlisted in Navy aviation. He piloted TBF torpedo bombers off carriers in the South Pacific on many bombing runs against Japanese air fields, surviving anti-aircraft damage to his plane and earning the Air Medal. In 1944, he married Mary Louise (Gogo) Cobb, of Winnetka, Ill., whom he had met the year before in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, where she was vacationing with her parents and he was scouting young ladies to invite to an Officers Club party at the Naval Air Station

Kiplinger's journalism career spanned more than a half-century, with work on newspapers from 1936 through 1941, local and network radio and television news in the 1950s, and newsletters, books and magazines in the 1960s through 80s. For almost 30 years he headed the publishing company founded in 1920 by his father, journalist W. M. Kiplinger (1891-1967). In 1961 he succeeded his father as editor in chief of The Kiplinger Letters and the monthly Kiplinger personal-finance magazine, then called Changing Times. He became board chair of the parent publishing company, Kiplinger Washington Editors, Inc., when his father died, serving until his gradual retirement in the 1990s, when he was succeeded by his son Knight. Under his leadership the company maintained the progressive employee relations started by its founder, including broad profit sharing, employee stock ownership and generous benefits, including free vacations at the company's resort in Stuart, FL. Kiplinger co-authored several books, including the 1942 bestseller *Washington is Like That* (with W. M. Kiplinger), *Washington Now* (1975, with Knight Kiplinger), *America in the Global 90s* (1989, with Knight Kiplinger), and self-published memoirs, *The "How Not To" Book of Country Living* (1973) and *Letter from Washington, Part I* (2011) and *Part II* (2014).

Kiplinger served in governance leadership at Cornell University, the National Symphony Orchestra, Historical Society of Washington, Federal City Council, WETA, National Press Foundation, Tudor Place, and Washington International Horse Show. He was the longtime president of The Kiplinger Foundation, a charitable trust established and funded by his father and replenished for many years with annual donations from the closely held Kiplinger publishing company. A lifelong supporter of civil rights, he worked on committees to end discrimination in the county's housing market in the early 1960s, marching with the county's fair-housing delegation in the 1963 March on Washington on the National Mall. Among his notable civic achievements in Washington was spearheading, with co-chair and former D.C. mayor Walter Washington, the 2000 capital campaign that restored the District of Columbia's historic Carnegie Library on Mount Vernon Square to be the new home of the Historical Society of Washington.

Serving the NSO Kiplinger's relationship with the National Symphony Orchestra spanned its entire existence—from his attending at 13 the first children's concert of the NSO's inaugural 1931 season (in a D.C. high school auditorium) to his service as a trustee, board president and, finally, emeritus trustee until his death.

Supporting higher education Kiplinger was a trustee of Cornell University for more than 50 years, as well as a trustee of its Lab of Ornithology. As university board chair from 1985-'89, he helped it navigate an era of growth, increased racial diversity, and campus turmoil, including student and faculty demands for divestiture of the university's endowment assets in American companies doing business in segregated South Africa.

An avid foxhunter for 30 years with the Potomac Hunt in Montgomery County, in the early 1980s he offered the hunt a site for its steeplechase course at Montevideo, his historic farm in Seneca, MD, where the races are still held in May. He was a co-founder in 1961 of the Seneca Valley Pony Club, which is still centered at Montevideo. A supporter of Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve, Kiplinger was among the first landowners to sell the development rights from his farm to the county's new easement program in 1989. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, as president of the Washington International Horse Show, then held at the D.C. Armory, he helped elevate it to the top tier of indoor shows, attracting the finest open-jumping horses and riders as well as international equestrian teams.

Kiplinger was a longtime member of the National Press Club, Society of Professional Journalists, Metropolitan Club, Alfalfa Club, Alibi Club, Chevy Chase Club and Potomac Hunt. His wife of 63 years, Gogo Kiplinger, died in 2007, and his older son, Todd, died the following year. He was predeceased by a sister, Jane Ann Kiplinger Wilson; a half-brother, Peter Kiplinger Langham; and a half-sister, Bonnie Kiplinger Watts McNamara. He is survived by his son Knight and daughter-in-law Ann Miller Kiplinger, of Washington, DC; daughter-in-law Dana Stifel Watkins Kiplinger, of Weston, CT.; six grandchildren (Brigham C. Kiplinger, of Washington; Sutton E. Kiplinger, of Boston; Daphne L. Kiplinger, of Washington; Tyler Watkins Taylor Constanda, Rawleigh Watkins Morse, and Cameron Todd Kiplinger, all of Weston, CT); seven great-grandchildren; and his companion of eight years, Bonnie Barker Nicholson, of Bethesda, MD.

Contributions in his memory may be made to the Historical Society of Washington, 801 K St., N.W., Washington, DC 20001; the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Rd. Ithaca, NY 14850; or the National Symphony Orchestra, Kennedy Center, 2700 F St. N.W., Washington, DC 20566.