

Renowned satirist, journalist and author P.J. O'Rourke dies at age 74

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FEB 15, 2022 AT 4:52 PM

Renowned journalist, satirist and author P.J. O'Rourke died Tuesday morning, his publisher said. He was 74.

"Our dear friend and cherished Grove Atlantic author P. J. O'Rourke passed away this morning from complications of lung cancer," Grove Atlantic Books said in a statement to the Daily News.

"P. J. was one of the major voices of his generation," Grove Atlantic CEO and publisher Morgan Entrekin said in the statement. "He was also a close friend and partner for more than 40 years. P.J.'s loyalty and commitment to first Atlantic Monthly Press and then Grove Atlantic enabled me to keep the company independent. For that I will forever be in his debt. His insightful reporting, verbal acuity and gift at writing laugh-out-loud prose were unparalleled." The prolific journalist and satirist wrote more than 20 books on everything from cars to politics, etiquette and economics, according to [Grove Atlantic](#).

Those included No. 1 best sellers "Parliament of Whores" and "Give War a Chance." In addition, "None of My Business" and "A Far Cry From the Middle" also made the list. Those and other works, including "How the Hell Did This Happen?" his dismayed take on the 2016 election, provided a steady stream of "fierce, smart, always amusing reports on the American condition," Entrekin said.

O'Rourke was best known for refashioning the 1960s irreverent counterculture "Gonzo" journalism into an equally shade-throwing brand of conservative and libertarian commentary, [The Associated Press](#) noted. He regularly contributed to the Weekly Standard and was a regular panelist on NPR's "Wait Wait ... Don't Tell Me."

"I'm afraid it's true," grieving show host Peter Sagal [tweeted](#). "Our panelist and my dear friend P.J. O'Rourke has passed away. More later."

The self-described libertarian was also a correspondent for The Atlantic, served as editor-in-chief of the web magazine American Consequences, and was an H.L. Mencken Research Fellow at the

Cato Institute. As editor-in-chief of The National Lampoon, he and Doug Kenney created the now-classic “1964 High School Yearbook Parody,” Entrekin noted.

CNN anchor Jake Tapper, one of many writers and colleagues paying tribute, tweeted, “What a loss; great guy..”

Born in Toledo, Ohio, on Nov. 14, 1947, O’Rourke had most recently been working on a one-volume look at the United States, as seen from his hometown: “A History of Toledo, Ohio: From the Beginning of Time Til the End of the Universe,” Entrekin told the AP.

He is survived by his wife Tina O’Rourke and three children.