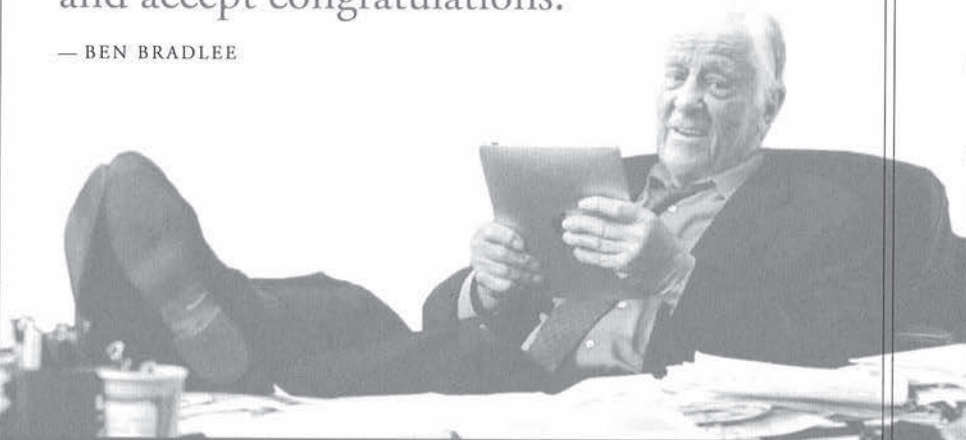




*President Barack Obama awarded Ben
the Presidential Medal of Freedom
on November 20, 2013*

“A newspaper is not referred to as the ‘Daily Miracle’ for nothing. It takes the talents of a great many people working a great many hours at the top of their game before an editor can put his feet on the desk and accept congratulations.”

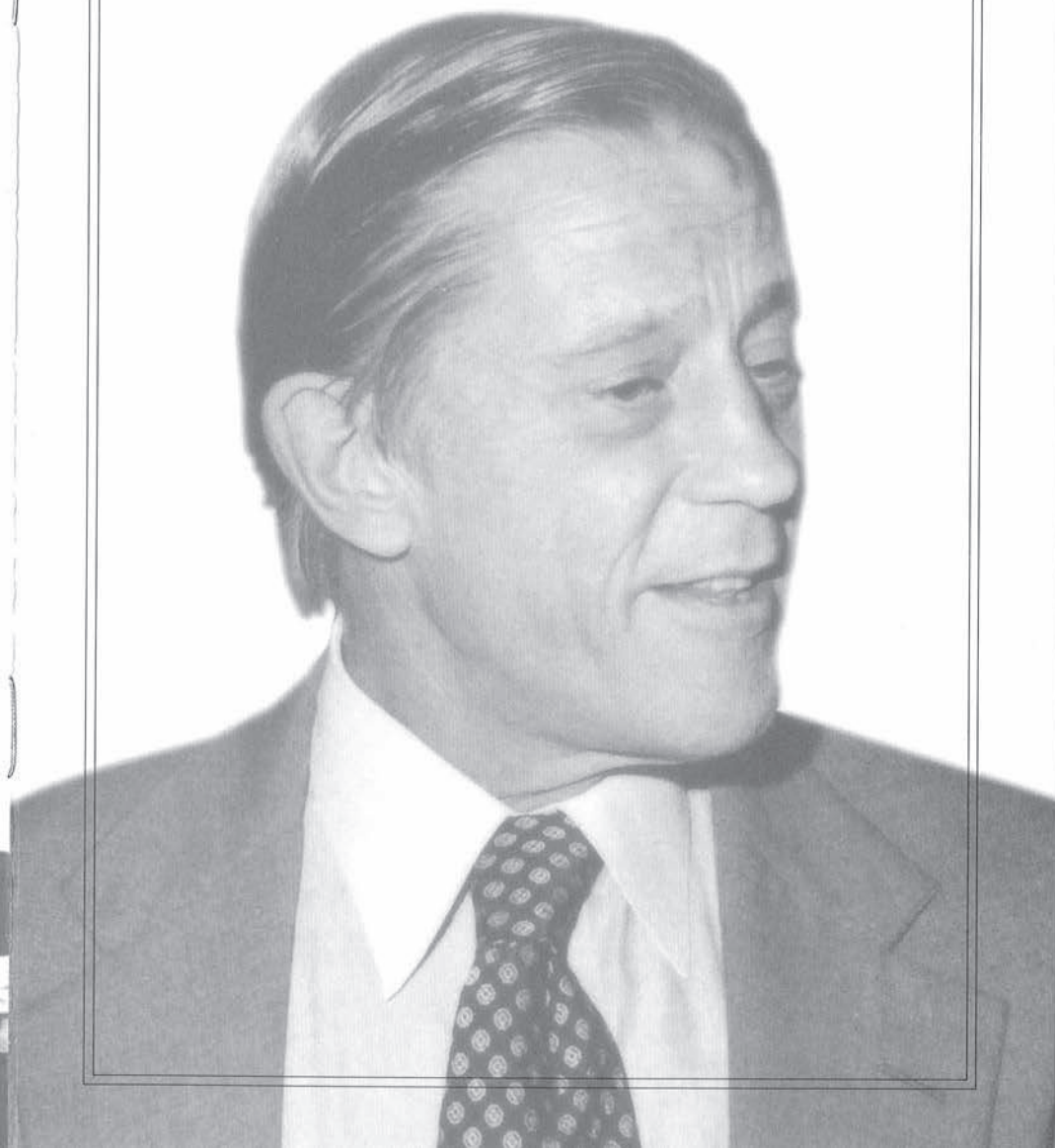
— BEN BRADLEE



A GREAT LIFE

Ben Bradlee

1921 - 2014



A NEWSPAPERING LIFE

BEN UNDERSTOOD THE PAST and its importance, acknowledged its formative nature in himself and his profession, but he was utterly liberated from it. The past was history to learn from. And he refused to let himself be emotionally encumbered by it or deterred by either the lows or highs.

The military analogy, so often a cliché, holds in his case: a great general, calm in battle, with the love and affection of his troops, of whom he was as protective as he was aggressive in sending them on their mission.

He was an original of his own creation — different than everybody else in his newsroom, different in temperament, different in outlook, and different even in his physicality and his language (a mix of high-church English and the locution of a savvy sailor). He transformed not only The Washington Post, but the nature and priorities of journalism itself.

He was not a man of regret—ever, it seemed. He was never cynical but persistently skeptical. And the thread that ran through his life—remarkably, without self-righteousness—was reverence for the truth.

— BOB WOODWARD AND CARL BERNSTEIN



“As long as a journalist tells the truth, in conscience and fairness, it is not his job to worry about consequences. The truth is never as dangerous as a lie in the long run. I truly believe the truth sets men free.”

— BEN BRADLEE



A NEWSPAPERING LIFE

“It is no accident that the best newspapers in America are those controlled by families to whom newspapering is a sacred trust.”

— BEN BRADLEE

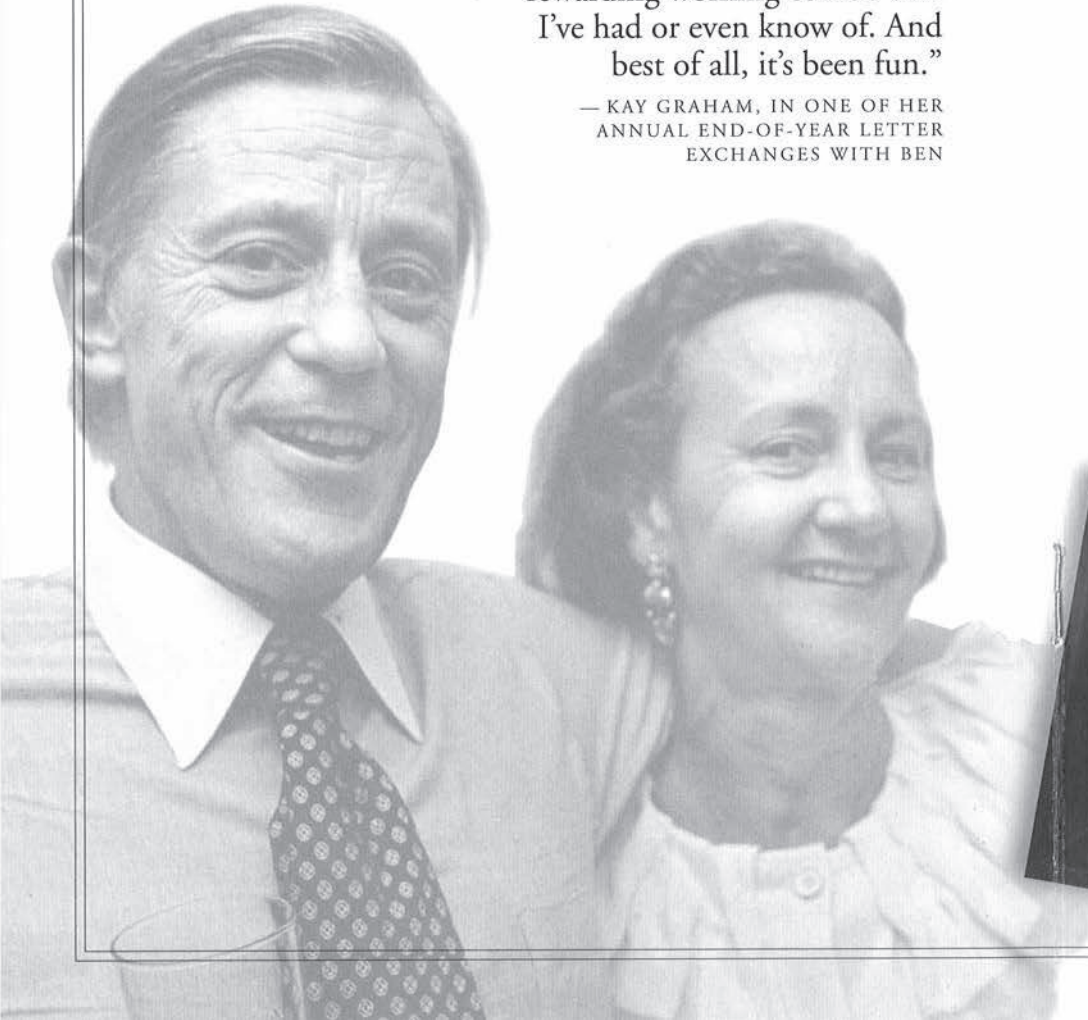
“Over the years, I have been spoiled by you and I hope most of the time it’s been reciprocated, in sharing the best, most productive, rewarding working combo that I’ve had or even know of. And best of all, it’s been fun.”

— KAY GRAHAM, IN ONE OF HER ANNUAL END-OF-YEAR LETTER EXCHANGES WITH BEN

“Newspapering deals with small daily bites from a fruit of indeterminate size. It may take dozens of bites before you are sure it’s an apple. Dozens and dozens more bites before you have any real idea how big the apple might be. It was that way with Watergate.”

— BEN BRADLEE

“Ben pushed as hard as an editor can push to print the story of the Pentagon Papers; he led the team that broke the Watergate story. And he did much more. His drive to make the paper better still breathes in every corner of today’s Post newsroom.” — DON GRAHAM



A PERSONAL LIFE

“Ben once announced that he could tell which mushrooms were poisonous and which were not and to prove it he was going to eat one from our lawn. I forbade him to eat it, at which point he went out, picked the mushroom, peeled it and ate it. I called poison control to report that my husband had just eaten an unidentified, perhaps lethal, mushroom from our lawn. ‘Why did he do that?’ I was asked. ‘Because,’ I replied, ‘I told him not to.’ In my next life, I want to be Ben.” — SALLY QUINN

“My life with Sally was exciting and full of surprises. Fatherhood had turned out to have no downside. Going home at night was as satisfying as going to work.”

— BEN BRADLEE



Clockwise from top left: Young Ben with his cousin Toodie; Ben at sea; burning brush with Quinn; receiving the Medal of Freedom from President Obama; with first great grandchild, Magnolia; Ben and Sally on their wedding day; a family gathering at Grey Gardens

