

IRE Vote via email
Ring of Honor
June 1, 2022

Motion from Mark Walker to approve a nomination to IRE's Ring of Honor for Tom Torok. **Second from** Jennifer Forsyth.

Vote: Approved unanimously

From Walker:

Here's some information from the nomination form:

Torok was a longtime reporter and editor who died at 73 on March 6, 2022. He worked at the New York Times and Philadelphia Inquirer and conducted many sessions at IRE and NICAR conferences as well as taught journalism in the U.S., Ukraine, Russia and Kyrgyzstan.

Here are excerpts from the nomination:

"Mr. Torok balanced on journalism's cutting edge. He began tinkering with computer punch cards in graduate school at the University of Colorado Boulder in 1973 and wound up creating and directing an elite data journalism team that helped the Times win eight Pulitzer Prizes from 2000 to 2013.

"After his retirement from newspapers in 2013, he spoke at conferences and lectured around the United States and in Ukraine, Russia, and elsewhere to students and other journalists about computer-assisted research, investigative reporting, and writing. He was on the boards of the Nikolaev Center for Investigative Reporting and the California-based Center for Investigative Reporting in Ukraine, and visited with Ukrainian journalists several times in the last few years.

"Asked in 2018 why he cared so much about Ukraine, he said: "(Someone said) their best hope (or freedom) was a free and independent press. So I can't think of anything better to do than to help toward that end in some small way."