

# Radio's loss

I WAS both shocked and saddened by the sudden death of Fred Frelantz.

I am a radio announcer, now with 10 years' experience, in the Asheville, N.C., area. But my career started in Roanoke, as did the careers of many other successful radio personalities. One of our earliest influences was Fred Frelantz.

I first became interested in radio at the age of 6, when my Dad took me to the Towers Mall and held me up to the window of a trailer and said, "That's Freddy Frelantz from WROV!" Fred was doing his non-stop "Wake-A-Thon" broadcast at the time. I felt as if I had just seen one of the Beatles.

Years later, while working at WROV, I was privileged enough to work with Fred and with Jack Fisher, when they got back together in 1980 for their monthly "Oldies" show. For a young greenhorn in the broadcasting business, working with Fred and Jack was like being a young singer and getting personal instruction from Frank Sinatra. I have never — before or since — worked with two more talented, experienced, or friendly people than Fred and Jack.

When Fred died in his apartment, I lost a friend. Part of my radio heritage died. And the Roanoke Valley lost a living legend.

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