



## Robert J. “Bob” Royer, SP5, USA

### News Anchor (69-70)

By Asia Fields Seattle Times staff reporter

Former Seattle Deputy Mayor Robert (Bob) Joseph Royer, a longtime civic leader and champion for the city, has died at the age of 75. Mr. Royer was diagnosed with Merkel cell carcinoma, a rare skin cancer, last year. He died Wednesday surrounded by family in Seattle, said his brother, former Seattle Mayor Charles (Charley) Royer.



Mr. Royer served as deputy mayor for his older brother from 1978 to 1983. He is remembered for helping broker a deal with British Columbia over the planned expansion of the High Ross Dam, as well as his work on conservation efforts at Seattle City Light and affordable-housing projects. A longtime Seattle resident, he was passionate about Pacific Northwest history.

“Seattle has lost a brilliant public servant, and the Northwest has lost a devoted son,” Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan said in a statement Wednesday. “Bob Royer was a transformative force in the history of Seattle.” Mr. Royer’s appointment to serve as deputy mayor for his brother was controversial at first, his brother recalled. But people soon saw the younger Mr. Royer as a political force of his own.

A front-page Seattle Times story in 1978 called the Royers “City Hall’s ‘two-man show,’” noting that Bob Royer was his brother’s closest adviser. He was trusted by the mayor when it came to policy matters and would often speak on his behalf. Staff in the mayor’s office described Mr. Royer as smart and impulsive, and said his idealism and energy were inspirational.

I served with Bob Royer at AFVN-TV in 1969-1970 in the television Production Department in Saigon. Bob was a talented writer and director. One day we were tasked with writing/producing a promo for a really bad science fiction movie titled "The Crawling Eye" starring Forrest Tucker. I produced the video and Bob wrote the script for the promo. His catch phrase for the promo was "A movie so #10 you'll think its #1!"....that was Bob.

Walt LeRiche