



From the Heart: The Photographs of Brian Lanker

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Brian Lanker saw more than most of us do. He saw opportunities in the moment, and he grabbed a camera, “the tool that was as quick and reflective as his brain,” writes sports columnist and editor Blaine Newnham.

Newnham recommended Lanker’s hire as picture director at the *Eugene Register-Guard* in 1974, just one year after Lanker had won the Pulitzer Prize for feature photography at age 24, for his photographs in the *Topeka Capital-Journal* of a couple bringing forth their second baby during natural childbirth. “I want to show people things they can’t see, normally,” Lanker said.

That quote from Brian Lanker, along with many others, can be found among the captions in these pages, all of which were researched and written by Mike Tharp, a war correspondent and award-winning journalist, with whom Lanker teamed up at the *Topeka Capital-Journal* and became lifelong friends.

From the Heart combines Tharp’s captions with a striking selection of Lanker’s photographs and a collection of essays written by Lanker’s colleagues and friends, who for the most part were one and the same. These essays—thoughtful, poignant, funny, and respectful—tell the story of Lanker’s bolting career start at the *Topeka Capital-Journal*, his ceaseless creativity, his driving work ethic, and his giving heart.

In her prologue, writer and poet Maya Angelou writes, “There was a generosity about Lanker, which allowed him to give himself to everyone as he was needed.” Brian Lanker was a photojournalist with the eye of an artist. Some of his photographs are timeless, and others are wholly of their time. *From the Heart* is a tribute to his singular vision, and a moving portrait of both man and artist.

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