

## ***Jerry Ratcliffe***

*Sportswriter, Charlottesville Daily Progress, Charlottesville, Virginia*

Jerry's parents, Virginia and the late Ernest Ratcliffe, raised him and his sisters, Pamela Ratcliffe and Susan Patton, in Pulaski, Virginia. Jerry didn't start playing golf until his 20s with friends at Thorn Springs Golf Club in Pulaski, but he loves the game and plays as often as he can. He's been in the newspaper business his entire adult life, starting as Sports Editor of The Southwest Times in his hometown of Pulaski then Senior Sports Editor of that paper along with two others simultaneously, the Radford News Journal and the (now defunct) Blacksburg Sun. Jerry spent four years as the Sports Editor of the Danville Register until 1982, when he became the Sports Editor of the Charlottesville Daily Progress, where he just celebrated his 25<sup>th</sup> year.

Jerry has been named the Virginia Sportswriter of the Year four times by the National Sportswriters and Sportscasters Association. He has won more than 50 writing awards during his career from the Virginia Press Association, the Football Writers of America Association, the Associated Press Sports Editors Association, and others. He has also served as the president of the Atlantic Coast Sports Media Association.

During his career, Jerry has covered the University of Virginia, Virginia Tech, North Carolina, Duke, North Carolina State, and Wake Forest. He has covered numerous Final Fours in NCAA basketball; national championships in college football and many other college bowl games; seven Super Bowls; NASCAR; the NFL (Washington Redskins); minor league baseball; college baseball, golf, tennis, and women's basketball. He has also covered many golf tournaments including MAPGA events; VSGA events; the Presidents Cup (those held in Virginia); three U.S. Opens and one U.S. Women's Open; and numerous other tour events.

Jerry's parents taught him to live by the Golden Rule and he tries to always use the manners taught to him by his mother. He also applies the positive thinking that his father taught him: specifically *Anything the mind can conceive, the mind can achieve. Never give up. Remain positive.* If one follows those rules, one will go far.

Jerry is most proud of his three children: Wendy Peery, Amy Woolley, and Scott Ratcliffe; and his four grandchildren: Emily and Brock Peery and Adeline and Mason Woolley. He is also thankful for his ex-wife Dianne's many years of support