

Media Mogul and Founder of CNN Ted Turner Dies at 87

Ted Turner, the pioneering media entrepreneur who launched the world's first 24-hour news network, has died at 87.

Turner's death was confirmed May 6 by Turner Enterprises. He had disclosed in 2018 that he was battling Lewy body dementia, a degenerative disease that shaped his later years.

Turner revolutionized journalism when he founded CNN in 1980, creating continuous global news coverage and fundamentally changing how audiences consume information.

His influence on the network endured decades later, with CNN leadership describing him as the "presiding spirit of CNN," reflecting the lasting imprint of his vision on the organization and the industry it helped define.



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Known for his bold personality and willingness to challenge convention, Turner built a vast media empire that included major cable networks such as TBS and TNT, while also owning the Atlanta Braves and other high-profile ventures.

Beyond broadcasting, Turner became one of the most significant philanthropists of his era, giving \$1 billion to United Nations causes and co-founding the Nuclear Threat Initiative to address global security concerns.

He was also known for outspoken remarks throughout his life, including a controversial statement in which he described Christianity as "a religion for losers," a comment he later acknowledged and apologized for.

Faith and later-life context

Discussion of Turner's views on faith remained complex. A report by Christian Broadcasting Network highlighted his long history of publicly criticizing Christianity, while also noting a later partnership with Christian organizations in a major humanitarian effort to combat disease in Africa.

That collaboration reflected cooperation on global causes rather than a clear embrace of biblical Christianity, showcasing the tension that marked Turner's public relationship with faith throughout his life.

Prepared by Charisma Media Staff