

# Al Ackerman, sportscaster behind Tigers' 'Bless You Boys,' dies

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(Photo: Detroit Free Press)

Al Ackerman, a former TV sportscaster who coined the rally cry “Bless You Boys” for the Detroit Tigers leading up to the team’s 1984 World Series win, has died. He was 90.

Family member Philip Handleman says Ackerman died Monday of natural causes at his home in Florida. He says a private service has been held.

Ackerman worked for stations including WDIV and WXYZ during a 25-year career in Detroit from the 1960s to the 1980s. In 1997, he was inducted into the Michigan Jewish Sports Hall of Fame, a recognition his family says was among his greatest honors.

- [Alan Trammell reacts to Ackerman's passing \(/story/sports/mlb/tigers/2016/06/08/al-ackerman-detroit-tigers/85597794/\)](/story/sports/mlb/tigers/2016/06/08/al-ackerman-detroit-tigers/85597794/)

Handleman described Ackerman as a “Renaissance man” who loved classical music, appreciated literature and was interested in public affairs.

Survivors include Ackerman’s wife, Terese Ann; two daughters; a sister-in-law; and grandchildren.