

Arthur Godfrey K4LIB didn't appear in many amateur radio articles. I thought this relevant to our search on Godfrey's past that he would be honored by the American Red Cross for efforts in their Blood Bank drive.



*This is a photograph showing Bill Welsh, W6DDB, presenting an award to Arthur Godfrey, K4LIB, at the Los Angeles chapter of the American Red Cross. The occasion was the 40th anniversary celebration of the first pint of blood collected by the Red Cross in Los Angeles. Arthur helped initiate the "GAPSAL" (Give a pint, save a life) activity at the start of WW II; this group was highly successful in getting entertainment industry people to donate blood for war zone use. Bill is a multi-gallon blood donor who is very active in the Los Angeles area blood program.*

Our photo is a May issue of CQ magazine in 1982, that's the ole red head that made CBS hundreds of millions. It is odd Godfrey has not been revered by his network over the years. The recognition simply is not there. Today Godfrey remains largely unfamiliar to the public.

Godfrey would not live much longer after this award presentation from the Red Cross and expired in March of 1983, just one year later at age 79. There was no funeral as to his wishes and cremated remains taken to Virginia to be buried near his farm.

Finally in 2006 my quest to find a K4LIB QSL card was over. A Ebay card appeared for sale and sure enough it was the Old Red Head's card. I believe the card gathered around 40 bucks and it was not filled out but had an autograph affixed. Since then Tom K8CX of Ham Gallery has in his possession a Godfrey letter to a fan in California with a QSL card and thank you note.

Here is to a man that held millions captive from the CBS Radio and TV network daily in the earlier media days.

Will we ever see this talent matched, probably not. Will CBS ever pay tribute to this man, probably not.



W8SU 2006 and added 2012