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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## Veteran *Times* Staffer, Pulitzer-Prize Winner & Tallahassee Bureau Chief, Lucy Morgan to retire

**St. Petersburg, FL** - After almost four decades with the *St. Petersburg (FL) Times*, Lucy Morgan is retiring.

Lucy Ware joined the newspaper in 1967 from the *Ocala-Star Banner* for whom she had been covering news part-time in Citrus County. A single mother of three with no formal journalism training, Lucy had been hired by the *Star Banner* because the local librarian had given her name to an editor as someone who read more books than just about anyone else. As Lucy tells it,

“The editor figured that a good reader might be able to write.”

So write and expose wrongdoing she did. She married Richard Morgan, her first editor at the *Times*, in 1968. In 1973 Lucy was sentenced to jail for refusing to reveal a source, but in 1976 the Florida Supreme Court overturned the sentence and granted reporters a limited right to protect sources.

In 1981, Lucy won the prestigious Paul Hansell award for distinguished reporting given by the Florida Society for Newspaper Editors. In 1982 she was a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize for her stories about rampant drug smuggling in rural Dixie and Taylor counties.

In 1985, she and fellow *Times* staffer, Jack Reed, shared the Pulitzer for investigative reporting for their work exposing corruption in the Pasco County Sheriff’s office of John Short. Short went to jail.

In a 1998 *American Journalism Review* article on the nation’s statehouse press corps, Lucy was referred to as “revered” and a “force of nature.” AJR credited Lucy’s leadership for allowing the *Times* to set the standard for state government coverage.

In 2005, at the end of the legislative session in Tallahassee – Lucy’s last as an active reporter – the senate honored her by renaming the press gallery, the Lucy Morgan Senate Press Gallery.

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“Lucy Morgan has played a lot of important roles at the *St. Petersburg Times*,” said Paul Tash, editor, CEO and chairman of the *Times*, “But none more important than this one: reporter. Of all the journalists on this very talented staff, nobody was more likely to break a good story than Lucy.”

Andrew Barnes, former *Times* Chairman & CEO added, “Lucy Morgan made the state of Florida a better place to live and the *St. Petersburg Times* a better newspaper. She took young people under her wing and brought them along at the same time she scared the pants off politicians with something to hide. I have never known a reporter who was better at ferreting out facts.”

“I always compared Lucy to a cannon on a ship,” said former *Times* executive editor Mike Foley and current University of Florida journalism lecturer. “You always wanted to make sure she was pointed away from the boat. It was wonderful that she was on our side - most of the time.”

Neil Brown, the *Times*’ executive editor, said of Lucy, “She is the consummate newspaperwoman, a Hildy Johnson-type character who can still out-report any journalist around. She has spent nearly 40 years holding those in public life accountable to the every day people they work for. It is a remarkable career and one that helped build the reputation of the *St. Petersburg Times* as the authoritative, independent source for news about state government and politics.”

“No journalist I’ve known excelled Lucy Morgan in common sense, character and commitment to the public’s interest,” said Eugene Patterson, editor emeritus of the *St. Petersburg Times*. “Nobody is indispensable, they say, but it’s hard for me to imagine how the *Times* can do without Lucy.”

Succeeding Lucy as the capital bureau chief for the *Times* is Steve Bousquet, a veteran political writer and former Tallahassee bureau chief for the *Miami Herald*. Steve told *Times* reporter Jeff Klinkenberg, that he is nervous about replacing a legend. Lucy expects to continue writing for the paper, but only on occasions. She also is considering writing a memoir.

Her retirement was marked this week with a reception at the Governor’s Club in Tallahassee attended by over 300 guests including numerous elected officials, lobbyists, law enforcement officers, members of the press corps, old friends and family as well as Governor Jeb Bush and former Governor Reubin Askew. Bush had this to say,

“I actually consider her a friend, but don’t tell her. It might ruin her stellar reputation with most of her peers.”

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Lucy Morgan’s recent columns: [www.sptimes.com/columns/morgan.shtml](http://www.sptimes.com/columns/morgan.shtml)

Jeff Klinkenberg’s Nov. 13 profile:  
[www.sptimes.com/2005/11/13/Floridian/Off\\_with\\_their\\_heads.shtml](http://www.sptimes.com/2005/11/13/Floridian/Off_with_their_heads.shtml)

Howard Troxler’s Column on Lucy:  
[http://www.sptimes.com/2005/11/10/Columns/For\\_Lucy\\_a\\_source\\_s\\_.shtml](http://www.sptimes.com/2005/11/10/Columns/For_Lucy_a_source_s_.shtml)