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Ed Schultz, Blunt-Spoken Political Talk-Show Host, Dies at 64

By Richard Sandomir

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Ed Schultz, a former conservative radio show host whose politics moved left before he joined MSNBC's nightly lineup in 2009 and then shifted again when he was hired by RT America, Russia's state-financed international cable network, died on Thursday at his home in Washington. He was 64.

His death was announced by RT America, which did not specify a cause. His stepdaughter Megan Espelien said he had heart problems.

Mr. Schultz, a burly former college football quarterback with a booming voice, ranged across the political spectrum during his radio and television career, achieving his highest visibility as a blunt-spoken liberal and champion of blue-collar America as host of "The Ed Show" on MSNBC.

In the 1990s, he had his own conservative radio talk show broadcast regionally from Fargo, N.D. But by 2000, when he announced he was a Democrat, he, and his show, had begun turning to the left, gaining listeners even while others may have dropped him.

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