



Indiana Broadcast Pioneers Newsletter



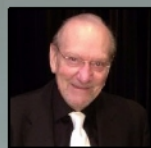
HALL OF FAME 2017



The Indiana broadcast Pioneers held it's annual Hall of Fame ceremony on November 3, 2017 in tandem with the Indiana Broadcasters Association's annual SPECTRUM AWARDS. The 2017 inductions brings the total to 176 Honoree's. Indiana broadcasters throughout the state attended the annual meeting and Hall of Fame ceremonies. The program included an Awards Competition among statewide Radio and TV stations for "On Air" Promotion and News features. This year the Pioneer Board selected four Hoosier broadcasting legends for induction to the Indiana Broadcast Pioneers Hall of Fame.



Goodland, Indiana native **Joe McConnell** experienced a 40-year career. He call three Super Bowls, the NBA Championship series, the NBA All-Star Game and American League Championship Series, but he was the voice of multiple professional and college teams including the Indianapolis Colts, Indiana Pacers, and major college athletics. A graduate of Franklin College, Joe is five-time winner of the AP/UPI Sportscaster of the Year Award and has been named Sportscaster of the Year in both Indiana and Illinois. Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels named Joe McConnell a "Sagamore of the Wabash" upon his retirement from Purdue in 2009.



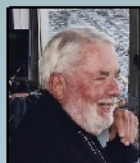
Joe McConnell

Jack Rinehart worked as a senior reporter at WRTV in Indianapolis. During his four decades on-air, Jack broke thousands of stories, covered hundreds of exclusive's, and established himself as one of the most trusted reporters in the market. His career highlights include an Emmy Award, Associated Press awards, a CASPER Award, and he was named a "Sagamore of the Wabash," by Indiana Governor Robert Orr. Jack, a South Bend, Indiana native graduated from Bradley University in 1973 with a bachelor's degree in Speech. While still in college he started working as a reporter at WRAU-TV in Peoria, Illinois. He later became an Investigative Reporter and Weekend Anchor before coming to WRTV on November 10, 1975



Jack Rinehart

Ken Speck served as an on-air personality at WIRE Radio in Indianapolis from 1970 to 1985 before moving to WKPM in Seattle where he helped take the station to number one within five months. During Ken's time at WIRE the station received numerous Station of the Year awards. Arbitron ranked Ken number one in his time slot for years. Ken's radio work began in Ohio in 1955 at Kent State University's WKSU and then WAND, WCMW, and WCNS. His early years included working at WCAR in Detroit and as program director at WSLR in Akron. That station was ranked number one in Billboard Magazine's radio response rating. Ken's tireless charity and fund raising work for many groups resulted in numerous awards including the CASPER Award from the Central Indiana Community Service Council.



Ken Speck

For more than 30 years **Steve Starnes** worked as a photographer for WTHR in Indianapolis. One of his crowning achievements came in 1982 when he worked on a documentary about the Ku Klux Klan in Indiana. The program earned a myriad of national and international awards, including a national Emmy award. Steve began his career at the age of 19 at WGEM, the NBC affiliate in his hometown of Quincy, Illinois. He spent ten years there but moved on to WTHR when a reporter from Quincy submitted a resume tape and the news director asked "Who's your photographer? Have him call me." The reporter didn't get the job, but Steve did. Steve's career behind the cameras took him all over the world, traveling from Afghanistan and Albania to Africa, before he retired in 2009.



Steve Starnes

Each Honoree was honored with a personal interview and a IBP Hall of Fame Plaque.



HOWARD CALDWELL - WTHI - WFBM - WRTV

Howard Caldwell, 92, passed away on September 11, 2017 at 5:27 a.m. surrounded by his loved ones. A lifelong resident of Indianapolis, Howard was born July 18, 1925 in Irvington to Howard C. Caldwell Sr. and Elsie Rebecca (Felt). He enjoyed the small-town feel of growing up on Bosart Avenue and then Hawthorne Lane. Howard's love of reading, writing and speaking were apparent at an early age. Copies survive of his weekly neighborhood newspaper produced with a rubber stamp and an ink pad, sold for ½ cent per issue.



After graduating from Howe High School in 1944, Howard served in the Navy during World War II, spending a year as a radio operator aboard a minesweeper. He later graduated from Butler University in 1950 with a bachelor's degree in journalism and a masters in political science. His first job in journalism came in Hagerstown, Indiana at The Exponent, a weekly newspaper. After one year on the job, Howard was recalled to service during the Korean conflict in 1951, serving at the Great Lakes Naval Base, north of Chicago, as editor of a newsletter.

Howard's broadcast career began in 1952, in Terre Haute, Indiana at WTHI Radio/TV, channel 10. In carrying out his duties as a reporter, Howard ran across an Indiana State student named Helen Lynn Gruenholz, whom he met and dated. Before Howard passed, he and Lynn celebrated 62 years of marriage. Howard affectionately referred to Lynn as "Linnie," and in his last years, enjoyed staring at Linnie's engagement photo. Howard and Lynn were regulars at Indianapolis Indians baseball games and Butler basketball games. They also attended concerts and theater productions, taking joy whether they were at Clowes Hall or Radio City Music Hall. The two simply desired to spend time together, and in later years, sat side by side on their couch watching the news, the weather and sports events.



Howard's 35-year Indianapolis broadcast career began in 1959 when Bob Gamble hired him as an anchorman at WFBM, known now as WRTV, Channel 6. In 1965, Howard was sent on a month-long assignment with photographer Les Walden to the Far East. Before embarking, Indira Ghandi was elected Prime Minister of India, and a request was submitted for an interview. Upon arrival, the interview was granted, and Howard became the first American journalist to interview Madame Ghandi. The interview was used nationally on the NBC "Today" program. Also, his documentary on hunger in India led to a 1967 Indianapolis Press Club Award.

A life-long Indianapolis Indians baseball fan, Howard chose to celebrate his later birthdays with his children and grandchildren at home ball games. Also a life-long Butler Bulldogs fan, one of Howard's greatest thrills was seeing Butler play in the Final Four of the NCAA tournament in Indianapolis in 2010. Eighty-four years of age at the time, Howard eagerly arose in the early hours to wait in line to fill out an application for the coveted tickets.

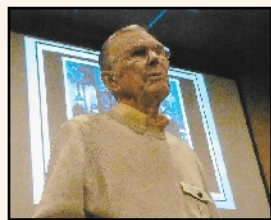
Howard was inducted into the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame in 1991, Howard was a member of the Service Club of Indianapolis, a professional/business group of war veterans. He is a former president of the Indianapolis Press Club and Central Indiana Chapter of Sigma Delta Chi, Society of Professional Journalists. Howard had many other honors, but what he most treasured was family and friendships. In the midst of his broadcast career, Howard found time to author two books: Tony Hinkle, Coach for all Seasons, a biography of the long-time Butler coach; and The Golden Age of Indianapolis Theaters, a history of theater productions in downtown Indianapolis. Howard also wrote the text for Indianapolis, a book of photography by Darryl Jones.



It was an honor to have Howard serve on the Board of the Indiana Broadcast Pioneers for many years

RADIO WARS

Dave Smith, long time radio announcer, WTTV Producer/WISH TV Program Manager,



Host Dave Smith

broadcaster , University Professor , former Broadcast Pioneers President, all around good guy (and my brother) staged an event for the Indiana Broadcast Pioneers.

Former students, co-workers, Pioneers, friends, and a couple of relatives were invited to a presentation by a former student, Producer Dave Fulton and his Co-Producer Al Stone, Producers of

the locally produced documentary movie "Radio Wars".

The Emmy Award winning program traces the epic battle among three radio stations in Indianapolis from the late 1950's through the 1970's. It involved: WIBC-AM (1070), WIFE-AM (1310) and WNAP-FM (93.1). The program showcases many of the legendary personalities from that epic radio battle for local ratings.



L-R, Al Stone, Dave Fulton
Pioneer President Dave White

The video, shot by photographer Art Vuolo, focuses on the power struggles for radio dominance in the Indianapolis Market. The film took Fulton and former WNAP-FM 93.1 program director Stone four years of research and interviews with numerous radio personalities of the day. Fulton said he wanted to document those radio years for younger and future generations who today—if they listen to radio at all—hear a largely homogenized format at stations owned mostly by big, out-of-town corporations.



Art Vuolo,

From controversy to corporate rebirth, RADIO WARS tells a moving and inspiring story about a medium with outlandish promotions and big personalities. The "on air" players included people like Buster Bodine, Tom Cochrun, Cris Connor, Bill Donnella, Roger W. Morgan, Reb Porter and Bill Shirk.

Comments from the Fulton and Stone were featured between numerous clips from the movie.

The program takes an unconventional look at the evolution of radio and the money and politics that influenced broadcasting.

The event was a luncheon sponsored by the Indiana Broadcasters Association and produced by the Indiana Broadcast Pioneers



Pioneer Event Attendee's



WKBF am radio signed on in 1927 in Indianapolis. By 1928, it shared a frequency with WCMA in Culver, Indiana and WBAA in Lafayette and was listed at 1400 kilocycles. That same year a Chicago firm bought WCMA and WKBF. In 1929, WKBF and WFBM combined to carry the 5-1/2 hour full Indy 500 race broadcast in a partnership arranged with the Indianapolis News just five months prior to the Stock Market crash the following October.



In 1932, combining the operation. By 1935, WKBF was the NBC-Red and NBC-Blue affiliate in Indianapolis. It was owned by Indianapolis Broadcasting Company and broadcast over 1400 AM. Just prior to 1945, the station changed its call letters to **WIRE** and became the NBC affiliate for the city.

After the end of radio's golden age in the 1950s, WIRE focused on country music. It was one of the city's top-rated radio stations into the mid-1980s, as FM music stations took listeners from AM stations

In 1985, WIRE flipped to an adult contemporary format, but switched back to country in 1986.

WIRE became **WXTZ** in 1989, adopting an easy-listening format. It flipped to album rock as **WFXF** in 1991. Country music returned the following year as the station changed its call letters to **WCKN**. It adopted an adult standards format in 1994 as **WMYS**. In 2001, the station became news/talk **WXNT**. It flipped to its current all-sports format in 2013.

As of 2014, Entercom owns the station.



Eleven years later, the station changed its call letters to **WIRE**, as announced by the Federal Communications Commission on March 16, 1935.[6] In 1941, the station moved to its current dial position at 1430 kHz, when the North American Regional Broadcasting Agreement or NARBA required many AM stations to change their frequencies.

The station officially opened its new studios on the show "Nightbeat" on October 27, 1950.

The program featured the smooth voiced Bernie Herman playing the popular music of that time period



Jerry Chapman
WIRE DJ

from 10-midnight for his teenage listeners.

Indiana Broadcast Pioneer Hall of Fame member Jerry Chapman also was a popular D.J. during that same time period. In the 1950's. he moved to WFBM Radio he became program manager, and in 1973 general manager of WFBM-TV (later WRTV) for 18 years.



Bernie Herman on
"Night Beat" 10-midnight
WIRE-1430

For most of the 1960s, 70s and 80s, the station's programming consisted of country music, which became an enormous ratings success. In 1970, WIRE's country format became number one in the Indianapolis

radio market with a 25.6 Pulse rating share, also making it the highest-rated country station in the nation, according to a 1970 Billboard magazine article. But over time, country music fans shifted their listening to FM radio. On November 28, 1990, the station became **WFXF**, which simulcast then-sister station WFXF-FM 103.3 and its classic rock format known as "103.3 The Fox." On May 18, 1992, the call letters for AM 1430 were changed to **WCKN**. Then, in September of 1994, the station switched to a syndicated adult standards format known as "The Music of Your Life," using the call sign **WMYS**. The station also aired Indianapolis Ice hockey games. On October 22, 2001, the station again changed its call sign to **WXNT**, with the NT standing for News/Talk, its new format. On January 2, 2013, WXNT, 5,000 watts, switched to all-sports, becoming a CBS Sports Network affiliate.

CALL LETTERS 1927 - 2001

WKBF - 1927-WIRE - 1945 WCKN -

WXTZ - 1989-WXFX - 1991 WCKN - 1992 WMVS - 1994

WXNT - 2001

- WXNT -



Obituaries

Shirley A. Boltz , 78, of Indianapolis, passed Oct. 3, 2017. She was born January 20, 1939 in Indianapolis to the late William Abraham & Mary Jeanette (Haley) Boltz.



After graduating from Southport High School, she was a pioneer for successful women in business. She worked for Channel 4 WTTV, Channel 6 and 20. Shirley then worked in public relations at the Indianapolis Zoo and the Indiana State Museum. She served as editor for IndyTV Guide and worked at Bradford Woods, before retiring from VSP.

A longtime member of Mt. Zion Baptist church, she enjoyed traveling and the Red Hat Society. She enjoyed working in her yard and cherished time spent with her family.

Richard "Dick" Caldwell, 69, of Fortville, passed away December 5, 2017 in Indianapolis. Dick retired from WISH TV after 40 years. Dick retired from WISH-TV after 40 years. He was a member of the Cyntheanne Christian Church where he served as a Deacon and Secretary of the Board. Dick was a close personal friend of Walt Disney and was an avid Disney fan. He enjoyed spelunking, loved cats, played the organ and sang in a Barbershop Quartet. He belonged to Bat Conservation International. Dick is survived by many cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Nancy Jo Cira, 57, residing in South Bend, died Friday, October 27, 2017, at her home. She was born November 18, 1959 in South Bend, to the late Joseph A. & Rose T. (Panzica) Cira, and was a 1978



graduate of Marian High School. She graduated from Butler University with a BA in Communications, and minor in Political Science. Nancy worked in the Promotion Dept. and as an announcer for WSBT in South Bend, United Way of Marion County, and for the State of Indiana Tourism Bureau. Most of all, she enjoyed working as Residence Director for Governor and First Lady Frank O'Bannon. She is survived by her two brothers, Patrick J. (Sue) Cira of South Bend, and Michael A. Cira.

Pastor Donald L. Foley, 85, died Saturday, Nov. 11, 2017. A loving, caring, generous man. He met His Savior face to face, and is reunited with his loving wife Marcelyn (11-5-2015). Don pastored Tallwood Chapel for 53 years, hosted Chapel Time on WBRI and was author of the weekly newspaper article "Chapel Gems". His life was full of service: Army Veteran, Weekday Religious Education, Hospital Chaplain and Lighthouse Mission.



Jon Charles Lightner, 67, of Indianapolis passed away in Avon, Indiana September 15, 2017. He attended Seymour High School and was a graduate of Indiana University majoring in Graphic Arts. After graduation, he was employed at WTTV Channel 4 as a graphic artist designing many sets for various shows including Sammy Terry's Nightmare Theater. While there he teamed up with Channel 4's popular Cowboy Bob appearing in many on air promotions. Also, Jon developed his own character as Artist Jon, commenting on art projects kids had sent in. Jon also worked for the State of Indiana performing many functions in his position of Administrations Assistant in the Department of Social Services. He also mastered sign language and assisted deaf State employees in their daily tasks. Jon will ALWAYS be remembered as a kind, gentle, humorous, creative individual. Jon was preceded in death by his father, Norman Lightner. He is survived by his mother, Mary Catherine, sister, Luanne, nieces, Robin and Nephew, Scott, and his friend and companion, Linda Spielman.

Mrs. Burnetta Mae Sloss-Tanner 82, of Indianapolis, passed away October 23, 2017. She served as Administrator for the Center Township Trustee's office from 1967 til 1986. She retired from the Indiana Civil Rights Commission in 2008. She was Democratic Chairwoman of the Fourth Ward. Founder and Director of the Jordan- Aires Gospel Choir and Radio Personality " The Heartbeat of Gospel Music " at WTLC 105.7



Kent Douglas Iunghuhn 58, of Zionsville, passed away September 14, 2017. He was born to the late John and Martha Iunghuhn on June 29, 1959 in Terre Haute, IN. He attended Terre Haute South High School as well as Indiana State. Kent was well known in the Indianapolis and Terre Haute area for television production work and as a camera man and a Producer at Creative Street. He later became the Director of Marketing for the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.



Death Notices

Mary Elizabeth ("Liz") Kirk, 96, of Indianapolis, died on September 10, 2017. She was a firm believer in Katharine Hepburn's philosophy of living: "If you obey all the rules, you miss half the fun!" Elizabeth was born in Indianapolis in 1921 to Robert Ralston and Mary Louise Jones. She was married to Clarence L. Kirk, Jr. in 1947 and they were happily married 51 years, until his death in 1998. She graduated from Tudor Hall School, after which she spent time in at the Peterborough Playhouse in New Hampshire and the Actor's Studio in New York. She acted in community theatre, including over 40 plays with the Players, and performed in television and radio. a member of the Pioneer Broadcasters of Indiana and the Colonial Dames.

Chris Wheat passed away last Friday at age 66.

After graduating from The University of Cincinnati, Mr. Wheat worked in Cincinnati radio for Taft Broadcasting, becoming Sales Manager. After leaving the Queen City, Mr. Wheat worked also for Taft in Tampa, Florida, and an over two decade run at Clear Channel in Indianapolis.

While at Clear Channel, his stations won 9 Marconi awards. In the 1980s, WFBQ (94.7fm, Indianapolis) routinely lead ratings and revenue, largely based on the success of The Bob and Tom Show, hosted by Bob Kevoian and Tom Griswold. Among many people Bob and Tom could thank for their success would be Chris Wheat their GM through much of the 1980s: Mr. Wheat also was president of Radio Broadcasters of Indianapolis.

After leaving Clear Channel, Mr. Wheat ran the Entercom/Norfolk, Virginia cluster, then back to Indianapolis at Cumulus' cluster on North Shadeland Avenue for nearly five years, and then became GM for Saga's cluster in Asheville, North Carolina. Mr. Wheat retired in 2015 following a 4 1/2-year stint at Saga Communications' Asheville Radio Group, where he served as VP/Market Manager for WISE-AM, WOXL-FM and HD2, and WTMT-FM. He had been living in Naples, Fla.



Mary Elizabeth Kirk



Chris Wheat

Robert Isaiah Woodson Sr. "Bobby" 66,



of Indianapolis, passed away on October 13, 2017. He was a Crispus Attucks High School 1969 graduate and an Army Veteran serving in the Vietnam War. Robert was a radio personality at AM 1310 and had been in radio for over 40 years. He also worked at I.U. Methodist Hospital for 18 years. He was born to the late Richard E. Woodson Sr. and Mae E. Woodson and he was the husband of Joan Trendell. He was the father of Kandra Shockley, Alisa Hampton and Robert (Kelsie) Woodson, Jr. He has 10 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. He was the brother of Richard Jr., Ronald, Sheilah, R. Phillip (Salena), Gwendolyn, Reginald and Rodney (Neva) Woodson.

Caldwell Memory

When WISH TV signed on the air in 1954 we had a very good anchor named Vince Leonard (real name Leonard Venske). In fact he was so good that he was offered the anchor position in Philadelphia. Our General Manager told me to audition people who I thought were potential news anchors. I auditioned several people and finally decided on two people. One was an up and coming news anchor in Terre Haute named Howard Caldwell. The other was a news anchor named Richard Hickox who was at WANE TV in Ft. Wayne. Our General Manager, Bob McConnell, and I auditioned and interviewed them very meticulously. Finally our GM decided we should hire Hickox primarily due to the fact that the Ft. Wayne station was owned by the same station owned by WISH TV. I'll never forget telling Howard we were going to hire Hickox. As I recall, within a year channel six hired Howard away from Terre Haute. Almost immediately he began to beat our news ratings. A guy name Bob Gamble became the News Director and no one came close to Howard's ratings. Whenever I ran into Howard he never forgot to kid me about not hiring him.

Dave Smith

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