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CONNECTICUT BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES 2024 AWARD WINNERS OF CBA & HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

AWARDS HONOR EXCELLENCE AND PERFORMANCE IN RADIO AND TELEVISION

(HARTFORD, CT) October 16, 2024 – The Connecticut Broadcasters Association (CBA) has announced its Hall of Fame inductees and CBA award winners. The Class of 2024 was officially honored during an event that also featured the inaugural CBA station awards, *The CBAs*.

The Hall of Fame and CBAs were hosted at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville on Tuesday, October 15th. Attendees had the opportunity to connect with broadcasters in the radio and television industry from across Connecticut while celebrating award-winning reports, personalities, and programming.

"The CBAs were our first station awards event ever and I think it's safe to say they were an unqualified success," stated Mike Ryan, President of the Connecticut

Broadcasters Association. "Our stations enjoyed themselves, the friendly competition, and the camaraderie with industry colleagues. And we added six deserving people to the CBA Hall of Fame. Everyone is already talking about next year."



The 2024 CBA Hall of Fame inductees are (in alphabetical order):

JOHN & CAROL BABINA: After having met at UConn, John and Carol Babina worked with noncommercial radio stations for more than six decades. They founded WMNR, now an all-classical radio station in Monroe, and founded and mentored high school and college radio stations throughout the state. They were instrumental in the technical upgrades and fund-raising that allowed WMNR to become affiliated with the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. WMNR Fine Arts Radio celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2023 and boasts some 60,000 listeners.

DOM BORDONARO: Dom was a broadcast engineer for nearly forty years, beginning with New City in Worcester, MA and retiring in 2019 from Connoisseur Media as its Chief Engineer. He was a highly skilled engineer whose talent, commitment, and dedication extended beyond engineering. His technical expertise and meticulous preparation kept stations on the air. His knowledge contributed to managing simulcasts, buying, and selling stations, moving out of buildings, building studios, installing new antennas/transmitters,

launching new automation, and understanding the latest equipment as the world evolved to where almost everything has an IT component. Dom was a once-in-a-generation broadcaster.

MARK DAVIS: Mark Davis is the multi-E Emmy Award winning Chief Political Correspondent for News 8 and WTNH.com. Mark’s political expertise and excellent reporting skills have made him one of the most popular broadcasters in the state for four decades. Mark has been ‘on the air’ in Connecticut for 37 years and a broadcaster for more than fifty. He co-hosted the state’s first Saturday morning news/information/magazine program, “Good Morning Connecticut,” and has filled several anchor slots on various editions of News 8. For most of the 1980s, he could also be heard on the highest-rated weeknight radio call-in program in Connecticut, “Dial Mark Davis” on WTIC AM. He was voted best local TV reporter in the state two years in a row by the readers of “Connecticut Magazine.”

SCOT HANEY: Scot Haney keeps Connecticut updated with the most accurate weather forecasts, especially tailored to the morning commute on Channel 3/WFSB-TV. He also co-hosts “Great Day Connecticut” weekdays on Channel 3 at 3 p.m. Scot started his on-air career in Topeka, KS as a weekend weathercaster and a weekday general assignment reporter and joined WFBS-TV in 1998. In addition to his extensive on-air work, Scot makes hundreds of community appearances each year, volunteering to help raise millions of dollars in funds and bring awareness to a variety of causes.

DICK ROBINSON: Dick’s nearly seventy years in radio began in Ware, MA and included stops in Holyoke, Springfield, and Providence, RI before landing at WDRC in Hartford. He was a DJ, hosted record hops, and perhaps most notably founded the Connecticut School of Broadcasting, where thousands of Connecticut broadcasters got their training in the industry. Dick’s love for broadcasting has continued with his international radio show “Dick Robinson’s American Standards by the Sea.” Dick is also involved with philanthropic work through his non-profit, The Society for the Preservation of the Great American Songbook.

The current members of the CBA Hall of Fame include Boyd Arnold, Gerry Brooks, Pablo de Jesus Colon, Jr. Denise D’Ascenzo, Brad Davis, Arnold Dean, Joe Dimaggio, Richard Ferguson, Bill Glynn, Ed Henry, Al Terzi, John Ramsey, Walter Martinez, Charlie Parker, Barbara Davitt, and Wayne Norman. In addition, the CBA has bestowed Lifetime Achievement Awards upon Bud Finch, Dr. Mel Goldstein, and Bob Steele – all legendary on-air talent – and Paul Taff, a multi-decade broadcast executive who concluded his career in the state as the President of the CBA.

THE CBAs awarded “best of” status to one winner in 21 distinct categories:

2024 WINNERS of THE CBAs

Best Engineer

Fred Santore, WKCI-FM

Best Photojournalist (TV)

Jose Gomez, WVIT-TV

Best Use of Digital Media

CT’s Hidden History of Slavery, WEDH-TV

Best Community Initiative (Radio)

Chaz & AJ Toy Drive, WPLR-FM

Best Non-Commercial Station

WWUH-FM, Five Decades of Alternative Radio

Best Feature News Story (TV)

Cop Saves Baby’s Life, WTNH-TV

Best Meteorologist

Mark Dixon, WFSB-TV

Best News Reporter (Radio)

Morgan Cunningham, WTIC-AM

Best Reporter (TV)

Sam Smink, WFSB-TV

Best Local Show (TV)

Capitol Report, WTNH-TV

Best Talk Show (Radio)

Melissa in the Morning, WICC-AM

Best Anchor (TV)

Keith McGilvery, WTIC-TV

Best Air Personality (Radio)

Danny Lyons, WEBE-FM

Best College Radio Organization

ICE Radio, CT State Community College Manchester

Best Morning Show (Radio)

Brian & Company, WTIC-AM

Best Newscast Team (TV)

Evening Team, WTNH-TV

Best Investigative Story (TV)

Solar Panel Industry, WFSB-TV

Best Promotion (Radio)

\$5,000 Fugitive, WWRX-FM

Best Breaking News Coverage (TV)

State Trooper Killed on I-84, WVIT-TV

Station of the Year (Radio)

WEBE-FM

Station of the Year (TV)

WTNH-TV

Special thanks and appreciation go to the following organizations for their support of our awards programs and sponsorship of this event: Compass Media Networks, Nielsen Audio, Sacred Heart University's School of Communication and the Arts, and Art Beatz. Their contributions are invaluable in making this event possible.

The **Connecticut Broadcasters Association** is an industry trade association which addresses common legal, governmental, education, and community issues on both the State and National levels. Member Radio and TV stations participate in the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and AMBER Alert programs, among other initiatives. For more information about the Connecticut Broadcasters Association visit ctba.org.

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