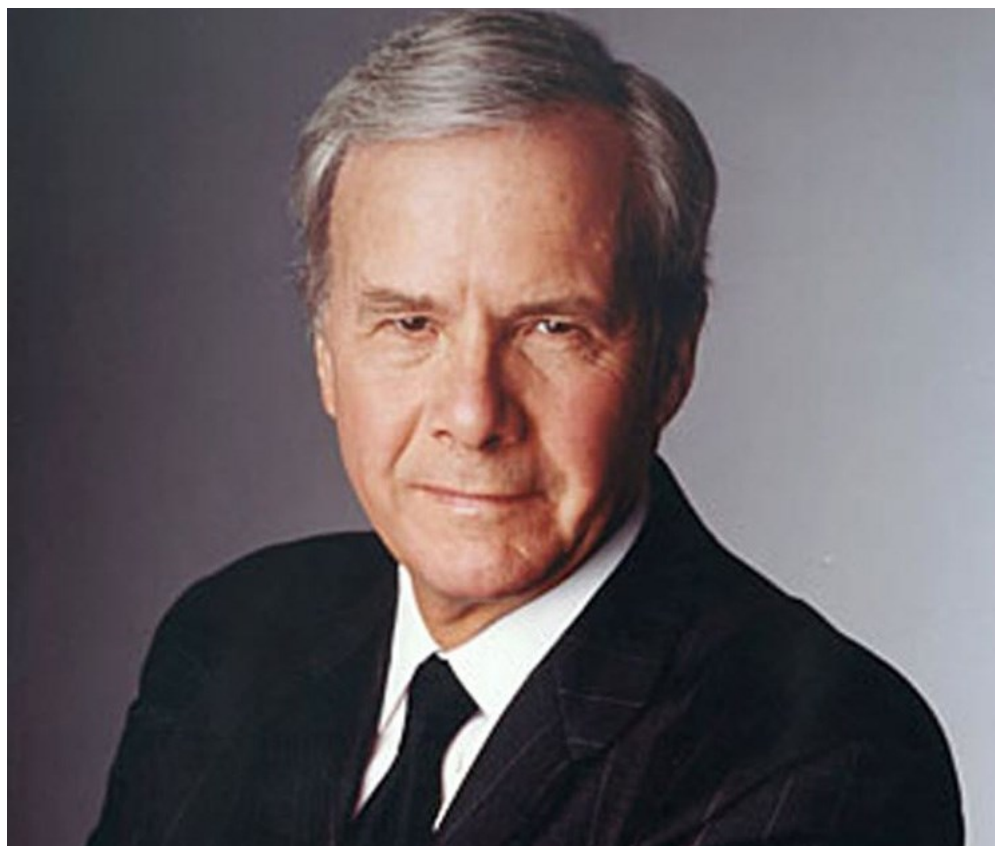




Tom Brokaw Retires



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Marilyn's Page



Before I get to the nuts and bolts of how special this edition is, I want to wish all of you a Happy New Year. I am told you can say that throughout February and I am just under the wire. 2021 may have started out a bit shaky but, with various vaccines being made available, it promises to bring a re-birth of some degree of normalcy. I hope everyone has been playing it safe and has remained healthy and engaged.

I will be sending out a separate email blast concerning a proposed luncheon date and asking everyone to be weighing in on that once I get the details from Sardi's as to how they can proceed. And now a few words about this edition...

"Our goal should be to live life in radical amazement...to never treat life casually." These words from a philosopher help describe what I believe Tom Brokaw gave us in his 55 years of reportage: Amazement, appreciation, explanations of the events surrounding and, at times, engulfing us. He did this with hard work, honesty, and an unending curiosity about the world around him and those human events which unfold daily.

ML Flynn coined the phrase *The Brokaw Generation* and so we are. Tom Brokaw has retired and this edition is largely dedicated to his colleagues' outpouring of love and admiration for him.

I have often noted that the measure of a person is not so much what your superiors think about you but rather what those who toiled for you think of you. Everyone understands the deference given to those "above you" whether earned or not. The only mention I will make is this: the last time Tom was our guest speaker at the luncheon he picked up the tab. The money collected for that luncheon went to two NBC family members who had suffered terrible tragedies and desperately needed the help. How he knew this is beyond me other than he keeps a close ear to the ground about those around him. No one asked him to do this. Need I say more?

Tom is one of the most beloved people in our industry. It flows from his "Everyman" attitude and goodness. This edition is a celebration of those qualities by people who worked alongside him. We all wish Tom and Meredith a well-deserved and fulfilling retirement along with their entire family.

For me, I hope Tom keeps writing. And now for the rest of the magazine... enjoy.



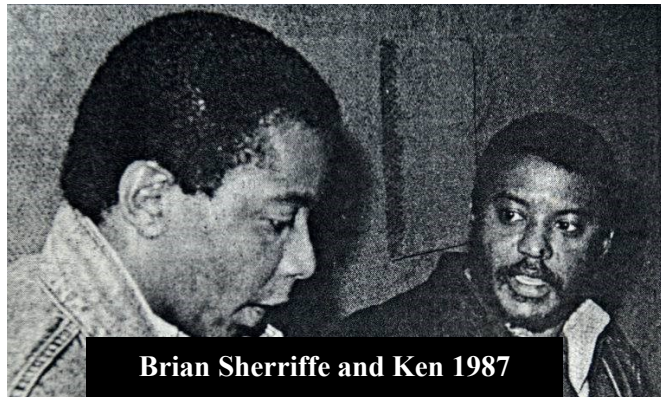
Peacock History

Colleagues Salute Sports Producer Ken Edmundson

This is Black History Month and I was reminded by Rick Stern that we have a special African American in our group and I want to honor him. He is Ken Edmundson or to some of you KRE. I believe that he was the first African American to produce sports for television on a National level and it was with us at NBC. If there were others I am not aware so I raise my glass to Ken and salute him. He was a damn good producer, organized, creative and great to work with. He is also one helluva good guy. Ken, tonight I drink to you and hope you are well.

Ken Fouts

I always pay close attention to the credits when one year is ending and another is about to begin. I'm looking for a familiar face and the face of a person of color, especially a black man or woman. There were a few when I started, mostly Engineers, but not many in the production mobile units. Looking at last year's credits nothing much has changed. Progress?!? Back in the 1970s, we had a toddler, and we taught it how to walk and run. We wrote the How-to Manual for sports production. Doing it was a piece of cake, it was fun. All of you created the How-to for what's on television today. I was blessed to work and laugh with you, the best of the best, and, I thank you. And, thank you for all of these kind words. A special thanks to the guy on my right in this photo, I love him like a brother. Ask him about buying snakeskin cowboy boots in Arizona. Thanks for giving me these flowers to smell while I'm alive.



Brian Sherriffe and Ken 1987

Ken Edmundson

I never tire of this photo as Kenny and I became the first African American producer/director pairing assigned to a NFL telecast (I rode Kenny's coat tails!). Thanks to Michael Weisman and Teddy Nathanson for the opportunity and making this happen.

Brian Sherriffe

KRE is one of the all-time greats, and I learned a lot from him. We did loads of shows together, and I always looked forward to it, as I had as much fun working with him as with anyone else I've ever worked with. Of course it meant Friday nights could be expensive with Ken's "I'll bet you a dollar that the next pitch is a strike, or the next pitch is a fly ball, or this guy won't hit it out of the infield," and on and on. Here's to KRE, but not just for the recognition of Black History Month and being a trail-blazer - but also in honor of being a great guy and a great friend!

Andy Rosenberg

I got to work with Ken both front deck and back deck. For all his preparation before a telecast, he is a master at rolling with the story. Honoring Ken during Black History Month is obvious; we should honor our privilege of having worked with him every day! It was a great ride (although I recall an evening before a game where I asked the two of you to drop me at the hotel before you guys went out).

John LiBretto

Starting Black History Month with longtime friend and colleague Kenneth Roy Edmundson. KRE holds the distinction of being the first African American to produce an NFL telecast for NBC and likely any network. Colts @ Seattle on September 18, 1977. Kenny is seen here at the Rose Bowl on January 1, 1981 sporting a newly minted Hill Street Blues T-shirt (the show would premiere two weeks later). His assignment this day was to produce the Rose Bowl Pre-game telecast for NBC.

Rick Stern

I'm honored to have sat next to Mr. Edmundson for many fabulous telecasts...and lost mucho money to him on random bets on Friday nights.

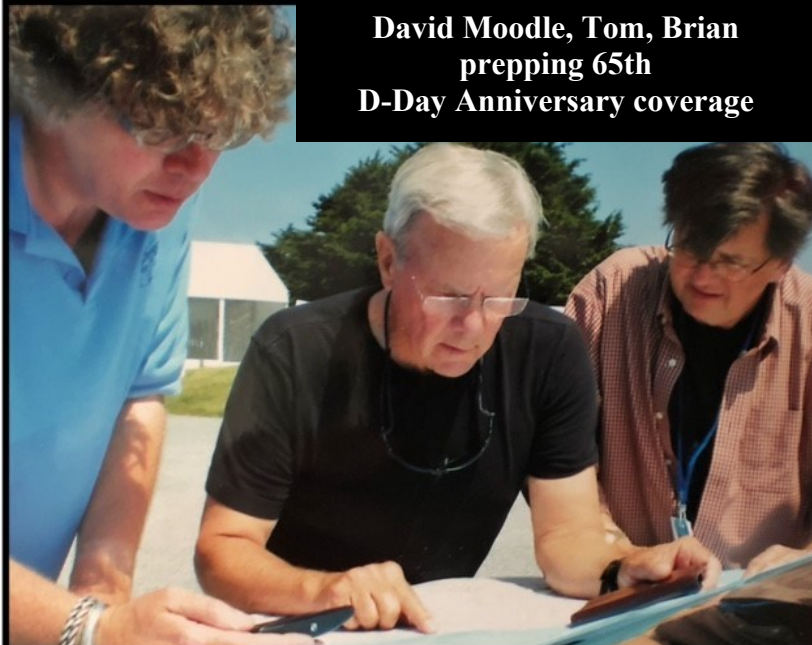
John Gonzalez



Rick and Ken

We Get Letters and Pictures

Happy Tales from the Brokaw Generation



**David Moodie, Tom, Brian
prepping 65th
D-Day Anniversary coverage**

I first worked with Tom in 1983 on a Pope John Paul II trip to Poland (Bill Wheatley was Tom's Producer). In 1984, the NBC Paris Bureau started preparing for President Reagan's June trip to Normandy for the 40th anniversary of the D-Day landings. We shot an hour long special, produced by Paul Greenberg, with two veterans and then the coverage of the anniversary itself. The hour long special was the inspiration for 'The Greatest Generation'. One of our missions was to shoot Tom at the base of Pointe du Hoc and get him out of a boat without getting him wet. After days of hand wringing in production meetings, Tom arrived, got out of the boat, got his feet wet and could not have cared less!

I worked with Tom on all the D-Days anniversaries up until the 70th and it was always a pleasure.

Brian Prentke

It's sometime in the mid-1990's. Brokaw is making his way back to NYC from overseas, but the flight out of London is cancelled. We get the call that he'll do the

show that night from the London Bureau and before we can even get nervous, in he walks, calmly carrying his one and only small bag, with no entourage. I mean no-one! He rolled up his sleeves and put on a show. That's Tom Brokaw. He didn't get the nickname Duncan the Wonder Horse for nothing. Working with Tom made us all better.

Karen Curry



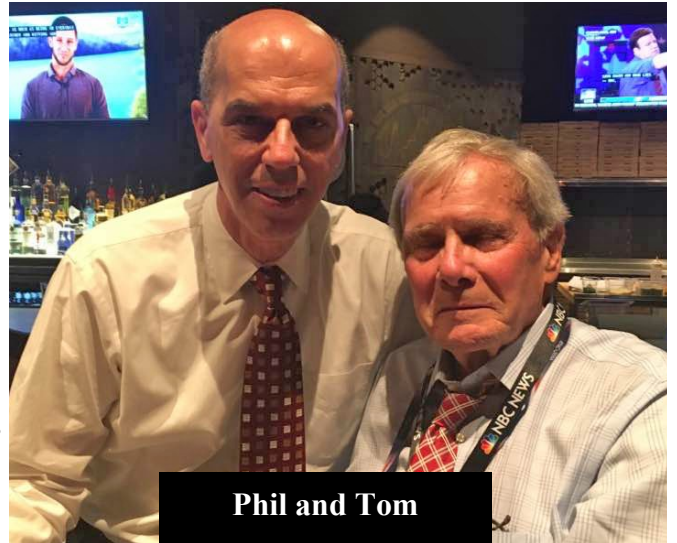
Working on *Nightly News* with Tom Brokaw in the anchor chair was an honor. It brought me experiences I never dreamed of. Attending a couple political conventions, working election nights, just observing Tom and bullpen staff putting the show together. I was so proud to be there. The viewer expected unbiased journalism, and with Tom, that is what aired every night.

Tom knew all the staff, personally, and cared about their lives outside *Nightly*. When it came time for me to move across the hall to *The Today Show*, Tom gave helpful guidance. He knew my husband, Walter Kelly, was part of the NYPD and never failed to ask about him. When it came time to retire from NBC after 38 years, Tom sent Walter a bottle of Jamieson openly suggesting he would need it with me home! Tom.....I wish you, Meredith, and family quality time as you take this next step.

Cathy Lavaty

I am truly grateful to Tom for giving me the confidence to pursue and realize my dream. And should you want to know the impact this one man had on the lives of many, just look at Facebook. The tributes from people representing all aspects of our chosen profession are unequal to anything I have ever seen. And why even more impressive? Because they are sincere. One last thing to add. The other exceptional thing about him was how he cared about our families as well. Both of my boys were also inspired by this man and have gone on to careers that make me proud. Tom, thank you for being who you are and for helping this "kid from Brooklyn" achieve things he thought he could only dream about. God bless.

Phil Alongi



Phil and Tom



One of the nicest benefits of producing NBC's coverage of Wimbledon in the early 80's was that once a year, Teddy Nathanson and I would get to spend some quality time with Tom Brokaw. He loved tennis. He loved Wimbledon. And he really enjoyed hanging out with his pals at NBC Sports. What a gift! What a life!

Geoffrey Mason



At Wimbledon

As the audio component of an E.J. Crew I always had the privilege of really listening to Tom speak. Never was it more of a pleasure than on our trip to Normandy for the 60th anniversary of the invasion. As we taped on the beach with four esteemed retired veterans all of us present relived the invasion through the responses that only Tom could elicit from these Generals. Tom was the kind of journalist who was able to take the time to do the work out in the field and to "see for himself" what was going on. A smart, funny and utterly gracious leader that I was so blessed to work with for so many, many years. The ultimate professional!

Helene Darvick



Every network new division has a president to run the organization, but from the day he stepped into the anchor chair, Tom Brokaw was our captain and our leader. Always representing to the men and women of NBC News and to millions of Americans honesty, integrity and truth. It is difficult to imagine NBC News without Tom Brokaw. However, by his example, generations will carry on his legacy.

Joe Alicastro

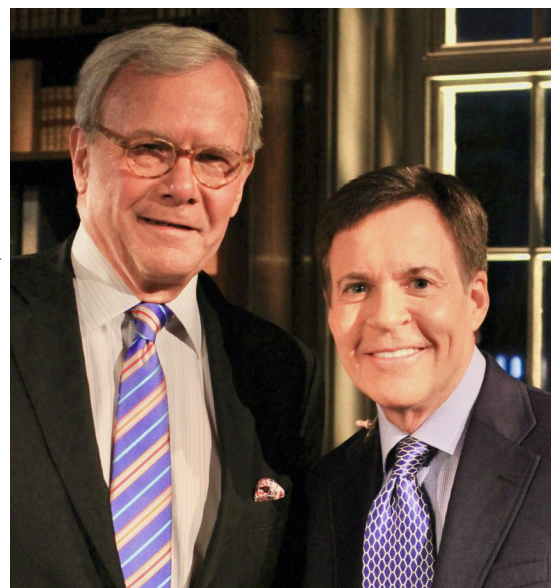
I had the wonderful pleasure of getting to know him and his lovely wife, Meredith, during my years as President of Madison Square Garden. Tom was such a passionate and knowledgeable Knicks fan and a big supporter of Pat Riley and the early 90's team. He was our guest often in Suite 200 and I can remember sitting around a dinner table with Tom, the late Chet Simmons and Ed Bradley as they reminisced about their early days in network TV. It was a cherished moment in my career that I will never forget.

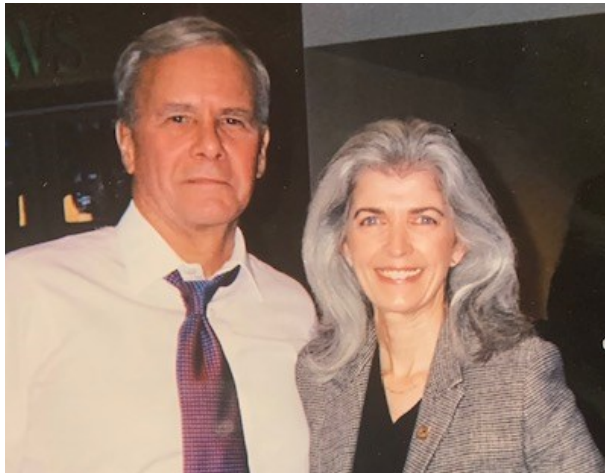
Tom is a man of character, class, honesty and humility and will truly be missed in network news. We are all better for the time we spent with as he came into our living rooms. An icon!

Bob Gutkowski

Tom's body of work speaks for itself. Those who watched him but never met him know he is one of the most accomplished broadcast journalists in the medium's history. Beyond that, he has been a respected and beloved colleague, mentor and friend. Never intrusive, but always there with gentle encouragement and support. And, if you asked for it, wise counsel. The esteem in which he is held is only in part due to the broadcaster he was. It is also in very large part because of the person he is.

Bob Costas





I met Tom in 1977 just after I started my position as the P. A. for *Weekend Nightly*. Tom was on *Today* then and would anchor *Nightly* on occasion. The rest is history. Things were different back then. We actually talked out loud in the newsroom! We got to know each other well over the years and I learned so much from Tom, especially after I became an Associate Director. He regaled, yes...regaled us with his many stories. Here is my favorite: Tom told us in our rundown meeting that he'd been to an amazing baseball game in Milwaukee. The stadium was packed. The pitcher on the mound wasn't pitching too well, so the team's manager yanked him from the game. The pitcher was Will Farnie. He spent most of the rest of the game in the bullpen, where he was drinking can after can of beer. The cans accumulated in a small pile. Will Farnie's relief pitcher was doing ok, but all of a sudden he was hit by a ball and had to leave the game. The manager had no choice but to put Will Farnie back on the mound. Will Farnie proceeded to walk every player who came up to bat and his team

lost. The winning team was jubilant! Players hugged in a circle and as they were headed back to the dugout, they passed the bullpen with the pile of Will Farnie's beer cans. The shortstop asked the catcher what those cans were. The catcher said "That's the beer that made Will Farnie walk us".

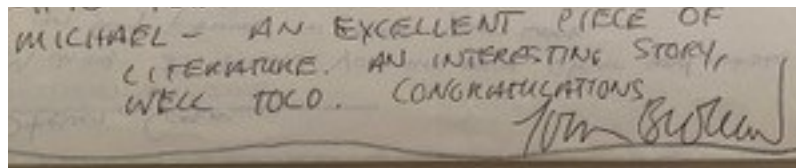
The rundown meeting exploded in laughter! None of us had any idea that this was a joke...Tom told it so well.

And I won't forget that he still calls me "Bobs"

I wish Tom, Meredith (her cookbook is wonderful!) and their family good health and much happiness.

Roberta Spring

When our son Michael was in first grade in 1990, he had to write some books. One of them was called "We Love Bears" and the inside cover page is shown here. After it was written and laminated, he had to have it reviewed. Michael was a big fan of Tom Brokaw - really. Every night, he would watch *Nightly News* and would tell everyone how much he loved Tom Brokaw. With this in mind, Steven brought his book in to work and asked Mr. Brokaw to write a review, which he gladly did, and which I have enclosed here. We are sorry to see Tom Brokaw leave. He was definitely one of the true gentlemen of television and he will be sorely missed.



Fran Cimino

Tom is undeniably one of the most respected people ever in journalism. He has earned that respect through hard work and staying true to the facts. Verifying his information prior to broadcasting any story. He is also one of the preeminent authors of our time. What the viewing public is unaware of is the person that many of us that have had the opportunity to work alongside. Whether at a national political convention, a rooftop in Kuwait, or the Rossiya Hotel overlooking the Kremlin in Moscow. We always had the same guy, gracious, good sense of humor, and a very generous man. I could go on about his good nature or having a laugh when the broadcast is finished but the thing that truly shines is his generosity. Always giving both in time and monetarily. There are so many ways that he has quietly helped: young people through scholarships, coworkers in times of need, honoring our fallen and active military, and standing up for what is right. The list could go on for pages. I wish Tom and Meredith a very happy and healthy retirement and a heartfelt Thank You.



His Old Pal "Mike in the truck"



Even while achieving great success, Tom has stayed true to his values. He comes from a family that respected hard work, straightforwardness and decency. As it happens, those are excellent qualities in the making of a good journalist.

Those who worked with Tom came to deeply admire these values. I remember being with him at the 2004 Athens Olympics, soon after he announced that he would be leaving the *Nightly News* anchor chair. On his last night there, NBC News video crews from all over the world stayed up until 2:00 a.m. local time, after he finished his broadcast back to America, to express their respect for him and wish him well - high praise from these veterans of wars, coups and natural disasters. And richly deserved.

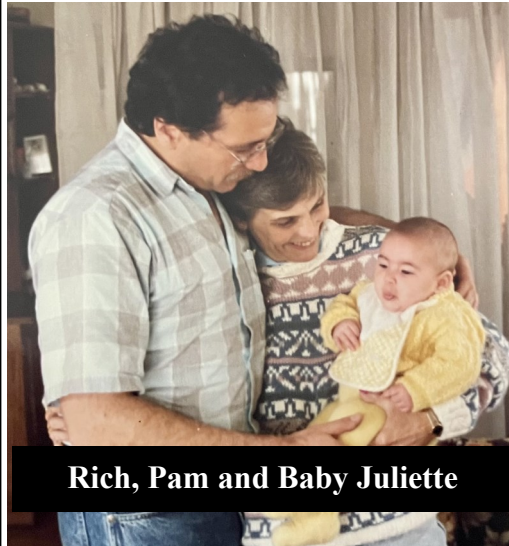
Bill Wheatley

Dear Tom,

When I think of NBC News I think of Tom Brokaw. You were not only the face, but you were the heart and soul. You taught us how to be good journalists, and what fair reporting is. You also taught us how to be true competitors. You allowed us to make mistakes, learn from them and move on. So many of us were so fortunate to work with you and for you! I don't know another person more respected or more beloved. Enjoy your retirement! No one has earned it more than YOU!!

Love.

Stacy Brady



Rich, Pam and Baby Juliette

In 1989, my wife Pam and I began the arduous and exciting adventure of adoption. Through friends I contacted an adoption lawyer in Santiago and the long process began. Chile, it turns out, had a low rate of drug use and maternal alcohol use. That was the flip side of a grim fascist regime.

After months of completing forms, arranging translations and acquiring letters attesting to our worthiness from politicians who never met us (I had friends in local politics), we met with the Chilean consul at the embassy who flipped through our letters and said, "Don't you have anything more personal? What do you do for a living?" I answered that I was a video editor for NBC Nightly News. "Do you know Tom Brokaw?" he asked. When I said yes, he nearly jumped out of his chair. "I love Tom Brokaw! Get me a letter from Tom Brokaw."

I went to work, spoke with Tom's assistant and told her what I needed. I had edited many stories with Tom so we were not strangers. Within minutes Tom called me and we sat down in his office. He was very interested in our adoption and we talked about it for some time. He asked us to write something about our past so he could include it in his letter.

I contacted the Chilean consul and asked how long it would take once I gave him the letter. Oh, it could take weeks or months. Since our Chilean attorney had already found a baby girl for us and time was of the essence, this was a painful blow. From the way the consul answered, I couldn't tell if he wanted money to accelerate the process or it was simply inefficiency. Tom called me and I went to his office to pick up the letter. He asked if there was anything else he could do. I asked him if he would sign one of his publicity shots and I gave him the consul's name.

The next day I returned to the Chilean embassy and met with the consul. He read the letter and said he would be in touch. I then said, "Jorge, this is for you and handed him the photo." The man was ecstatic. I asked when we might hear from him and he said next week. I bribed him without bribing him. When we returned after a month in Chile (the courts were on strike) there was a wonderful toy from Penny Whistle and a note from Tom waiting for us. Whenever I passed Tom in the hall, he asked about our little girl. She will be 32 next month and I remember Tom's kindness every day.

Richard Munde



Juliette today.



Tom has always been the general who felt comfortable hanging with the "troops." I know - he's been a good friend to this buck private from Utah for many years. When Tom heads to Montana every summer, I always look forward to his text, phone call or email. I've had to learn a form of cryptography to decipher the messages. He seldom asks if I'm available, infrequently goes through the regular channels, and often just provides a when and where. I know the details will come after several prompts or a call to the ever patient Clare. I received three of the calls this past summer. Our last trip was for the election. It was the best election coverage assignment I've ever had. We didn't get on the air much. Sadly, NBC had different priorities this time around. It was fine with me but you know how he felt about it. We sat in oversized leather chairs drinking the appropriate beverages. (Me far more than Tom). The correspondent never stopped making calls, emailing and texting to get more information on the results. He was talking to James Baker one minute and launching into a story about someone in the NBC family the next. His mind works on a multi-level system

that is astounding. I'm always in awe at his depth of knowledge, work ethic, and curiosity. I headed to bed late and pretty despondent with the results but he said, "Don't worry, I'm sure Biden's got it." So many of us have multiple memories with Tom. Isn't it remarkable that one person could have had such an impact on a news organization family for so many years? I feel very fortunate to have worked during what I think was the best era of television news, with Tom Brokaw at the helm. For the past several years our shoots have ended the same way, with me saying, "I hope I'll see you again soon." Tom always responds with a promise, "I'll find something for us to do." I can't wait! Paul Thiriot, longtime NBC Videographer from Salt Lake City, UT

Tom was the North Star for a generation or two of us at NBC News. On *Nightly News*, where I worked, he turned our daily "2.30 rundown meeting" when we thrashed around what should be in the broadcast into a master class in journalism. I have a flood of memories of vigorous debates about how and what to say about our Monica Lewinsky coverage, should our lead story be India and Pakistan at nuclear loggerheads when the news just broke that Frank Sinatra died, and then his intuitive sense of how to capture the anguish America felt on September 11th, 2001.

I was so privileged to travel the world with Tom chasing so many headlines from war zones, to Russian coups, to Mideast Intifadas to funerals for a princess and a saint, to presidential campaigns, D-Day anniversaries, several Olympics and so much more. Throughout all those years, Tom never lost his passion for reporting. What the public never saw was that he was "just one of the gang." Everyone in the field just loved him. There was nothing he loved more than hanging out with our world-class camera crews and engineers. Along the way, Tom gladly carried camera gear and patiently posed for "Team Photo" after team photo after every story was wrapped. The only thing he didn't seem to enjoy was waiting for my luggage at baggage claims because it slowed us down in getting to the story. Tom, of course, was a confirmed "carry-your-one-bag-onboard" practitioner. (Not a chance on my part!).



Last month, someone from NBC said to me that "The Brokaw Generation" has left the building" with so many of us recently retiring. Now, Tom has joined our ranks and "The Brokaw Generation" has indeed left the building", but Tom's journalistic standards and spirit will no doubt continue to inspire the present generation of NBC News journalists and future ones ahead. I wish my dear friend "Tango Bravo" much joy and happy trails ahead.

ML Flynn

Tom Brokaw is the reason why most of us felt proud of the work we did for NBC News. He showed us all how much it meant to be principled, honest and to have a kind and gentle sense of humor.

My daughter Victoria was about 2 years old visiting NBC. She came running down the hall & turned the corner just as the elevator door opened. She stopped, looked up at the gentleman getting off the elevator and shouted "Brokaw!" Tom looked down at her, raised an eyebrow and said "She says it better than I do." He is still the best!

Katherine Powers

It's been 26 years since I retired from NBC, and now I'm out of touch with avenues of communication for most people who were important to me. Tom Brokaw certainly fits that standard, as our first encounter was on his initial on-air day in KNBC's news studio, and as stage manager I gave him his first NBC cue. We both remember that day, and years later when I was in New York, we'd cheerfully acknowledge that moment when we'd bump into each other. There is a lot of life on which to reminisce; that day in 1966, when he was 26, and I was 32. Fast forward 55 years, our journeys are still afloat, and my esteem for his great character and career remains.

Paul Deak



I had the privilege of being Tom's director for numerous *Nightly News* telecasts, but more often was his director on remote telecasts. These included Election Nights (who can forget 2000? "Florida, Florida, Florida"), Conventions, and any number of *Dateline* specials from places like: Wall Street, where I was asked why I was wetting down the street (looked so dramatic!); The Brooklyn Heights Promenade overlooking the BQE (it was raining, so we didn't bother to wet down the street); A boat in lower New York harbor with beer and sandwiches (Statue of Liberty makes a cool background, and no street to wet down). There were religious shows, educational shows, even a medical show at Temple University Hospital; and it was all a great ride for me. But the honor of all was when I introduced Tom as the guest speaker at a Peacock North Luncheon.

Happy Retirement Tom! And thanks for letting me be a small part of your great career.

John LiBretto

I'd like to think I was "present at the Creation". What started in Yankton and Sioux City was the beginning of a storied career of American journalism excellence.

Tom joined NBC News in Los Angeles in 1966 and by 1973 was named the chief White House correspondent covering President Nixon and Watergate. That's when he really went into overdrive. I was the lucky guy assigned to be Tom's field producer on the road. Wow!



Early on, I'd pick Tom up from home and drive to Andrews Air Force Base for the press plane. We'd talk about our weekend: I had seen a movie and Tom and Meredith had been to dinner with Henry Kissinger. I say this simply to underscore Tom's ability to cultivate sources and establish himself in the community. When Tom arrived in Washington D.C., he already knew the California players, but immediately set to work on meeting all the key folks around town. He had a knack for attracting leading figures in government, politics, business, sports, science, entertainment – you name it.

Of course, it was exciting and fun to travel with Tom. We covered Gerald Ford over one Christmas break in Vail, where Tom managed to get NBC to find us a house down the street from the President's. Plus, Pete Dawkins (Heisman Trophy winner) and John Cochran were housemates! We spent lots of time in Laguna Beach and Key Biscayne covering Nixon and around Palm Springs for Ford, where diners routinely came up to Tom: he never failed to truly engage with them.

After Tom became anchor, I ran the specials unit and was "in Tom's ear" for breaking stories. It became very clear very early that the less I talked to him on air, the better off we were. We also had the late great Gene Farinet writing for us.

What was remarkable to me from the start was Tom's tireless work-ethic, his ability to be creative and always accurate and to be the consummate team player. He did his homework. He didn't wait for the story to come to him. He found the story. He earned his place as the beloved and long running anchor and standard bearer for NBC News and later, its statesman. Everyone knows what a terrific mentor and friend Tom was to so many of us. He never forgot his colleagues and helped us with our careers and out of jams, including this reporter! He had our backs.

Tom – so many thanks for the example you set, for all that I learned from you, for the friendship and the fun. We are all grateful that you took us along for this glorious ride and are looking forward to more of your books and whatever else you may have in the works. Stay well.

Lloyd Siegel





I remember with awe and admiration our anchor's keen insight and composure on the searing day that the World Trade Center towers fell to earth on "live tv." Between delivering fast-breaking facts and amid all that pandemonium, Tom observed that, "Not counting America's self-inflicted toll of the civil war," this was "the worst-ever attack on U.S. soil since the War of 1812."

Robert Hager

Tom and I had a long and enduring relationship starting in Burbank in 1966 when he anchored the 11pm KNBC News and I was his stage manager. In the summer of 1980 we reconnected in New York on the Today Program and then in 1982 when he anchored the NBC Nightly News.

The sixteen years as his director were some of the best years of my professional career. His energy and work ethic knew no bounds. His innate sense of timing was incredible. "Ok, Tom, you have 34 seconds to get off the air" I would say in his IFB during a commercial break. "Just let me know when I have 10 seconds left", he would say back to me. Perfect every time!

I was never aware that Tom took advantage of his notoriety. He is a true 'everyman'. He enjoys interacting with people he meets on the street or in an airport. Coming back from a very moving memorial service in Houston for the astronauts lost during the liftoff at Cape Kennedy, Tom, and I and one of the Nightly producers were waiting at the airport to board our flight back to New York. The boarding gate agent called Tom to board first. From the surprised look on his face, I assumed he was slightly embarrassed at this kind of attention. But when I boarded a few minutes later, there was Tom standing in the aisle helping other passengers lift their carry on bags into the overhead bins.

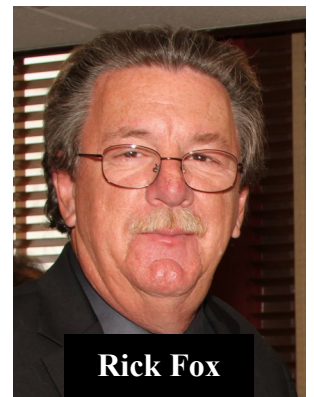
In the days before smart phones, everyone knew Tom had a massive Rolodex full of personal and professional contacts. I'm proud to say that one of those contacts is my son, Scott. He met Scott in 1981 at Cape Canaveral during the first shuttle launch. Scott was a little over 4 years old. It's been almost forty years since that meeting and they still keep in touch. He's experienced the joy of Scott getting into Stanford on a gymnastic scholarship and also becoming an anesthesiologist.

Julian Finkelstein

While covering the Olympics over the years - (mostly from the Prime Time Studio) - I witnessed Tom Brokaw always gracing us with his presence to visit Bob Costas. I was lucky enough to have known and worked with them both over the years. Whenever Tom paid us a visit, I always made it a point to capture the moment with my camera. Glad I did. Tom is simply the best.

Rick Fox

Although Freddy Lights didn't want any attention on his retirement, Tom still gave him a beautiful sendoff on his last day. Tom said lovely things about Freddy's time on the program and even had a camera put on Freddy.



Tom Brokaw was a fine gentleman to the people he worked with and he was an excellent newsman. He was as loyal to his staff as they were to him. I wish him all the best in his retirement.

John D'Angelo



As I was walking out of Costco one day a man who was entering got right in my face and said "Hi". It took me a few seconds, but I finally realized it was Tom. Surprised, I said "Tom, what are you doing here?" He replied "I love Costco!" and went on to sing its praises. Ever since then he's referred to me as his "Costco Pal", which goes to show he's an EVERYMAN!

Patti Lang



Tom and "Petey" on the Nightly set.



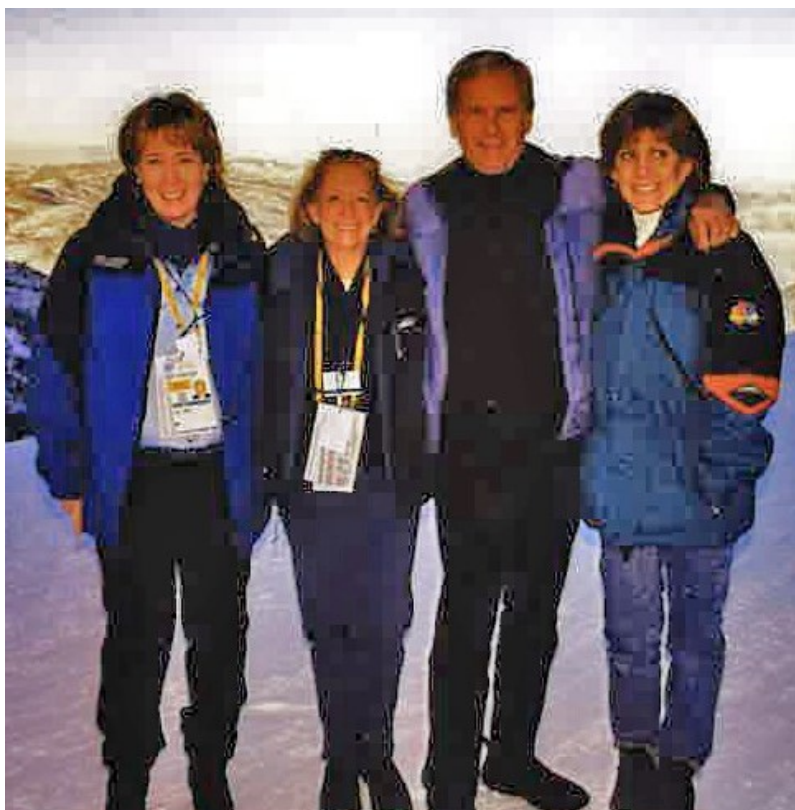
Pete Sr and Jr, Tom, Maureen at Peacock North

I'll never forget the kindness Tom showed our family after our son Pete was born. When I first brought Pete to work during my maternity leave, Tom said that Pete was perfect. I brought Pete to work with me many times while working on *Nightly*. And each time I did, Pete got the chance to visit his "Uncle" Tom. That's how we referred to him. Many times they were on the news set chatting away.

Over the years I kept Tom updated on all of Pete's accomplishments straight through to his college graduation. I think he appreciated that. So when Tom was picked to speak at the Peacock North luncheon it was a no brainer. We all had to be there. When we got our chance to speak to Tom, Pete, of course called him, "Uncle Tom." Tom looked up at him and said, "Petey?!?"

Thank you, Tom, for the memories.

Maureen Stamm



ML Flynn, Maralyn Gelefsky, Tom , Stacy Brady

Peacock History



**The MSNBC Launch:
A Tale of Two Shirts.
By Allison J. Davis**



I've never been one to throw stuff out or give things away ... until now. The pandemic has forced so many of us to take a closer look at our living spaces and purge ourselves of things that may not hold much value. With overflowing closets and dresser drawers, I began to toss things that I hadn't seen or worn in years. That's when I found two shirts; both telling important stories of my television and digital news history.

The first shirt I found was a black tee emblazoned with the NBC Peacock and the words SuperNet. I remember that shirt well. It identified our small team of "cyber journalists" hired after convincing the news division and particularly VP Bill Wheatley, that the internet was coming and that we ought to be prepared to tell our stories in this new medium. I wasn't clairvoyant. In 1985, I purchased an Apple IIe shortly before the birth of my

first child, and I saw the possibilities. I then convinced the NBC News IT team to give me a PC with a CD-ROM drive instead of a "drive-less" BASYS-only terminal, and my world changed. The drive had old footage most likely purchased from a network news archives and the possibilities of telling stories in this new medium truly became a reality.

But it took some time for others to see.

The team that was to become NBC SuperNet began our journey on the fledgling internet. I asked wonderful news producer Bert Medley to join the team. Others came straight out of college or from small struggling startups. We entered the web through General Electric's back door. In those days, companies like G.E and Boeing, exchanged information through the World Wide Web and NBC SuperNet invaded that space. We didn't ask and we didn't tell. We re-wrote news stories from show scripts or asked a few of our correspondent friends to re-write their stories for the web. Those who had time and were curious, quickly agreed. We even posted a weekly news quiz. Winners were sent our SuperNet tee. We had a small but wonderful following of mostly industrial engineers who had internet access but we all knew that it was time to expand. NBC Archives head Nancy Cole became an early ally in looking for a digital partner whose interest was exploring news distribution. We wanted to find a company that would leave the story-telling to NBC while providing a distribution route to get those stories out there to the growing number of digital subscribers.



Peacock History

We would talk with AOL, CompuServe and a few other startups who wanted our valuable video assets but who offered little more. It was then recommended to us to contact the folks at the Microsoft Network or MSN. Like AOL, it was a closed digital network requiring a disk to access. I'm sure there were discussions above my pay grade but eventually, it was decided that we would partner with Microsoft on this new platform.

Microsoft was known for its successful Disk Operating System or DOS. However, MSN wasn't nearly as successful. It was slow, difficult to navigate, and the Microsoft team and NBC team simply didn't speak the same language. At 30 Rock, we thought this new platform would allow us to put stories up almost immediately. In Redmond, Washington, home of Microsoft, meeting a news deadline was a foreign concept. We stayed with MSN but didn't abandon our GE backdoor to the World Wide Web.

I guess our work was good enough for both sides to see an even bigger picture — an integrated web presence and cable news channel. MSNBC was described as a joint venture between the two media giants. I was first asked to envision a website that would incorporate our news shows as well as original news. I remember traveling frequently across the country to the Microsoft offices to discuss ideas and possibilities. Later it was decided to separate the dot com into two departments. One area would feature original news, the other would feature news stories from the cable and television programs. As the relationship between the NBC SuperNet team and the MSN team had been less than congenial, it was decided that it would be best to hire a new joint venture group of journalists to handle original digital news. The following months were quite dizzying. There was the build-out of the state of the art facility in Secaucus, NJ and we watched our small little team grow to include graphic designers, editors and coders.

But what of that second shirt found buried deeper in the drawer? It was a golf shirt and stitched above the pocket in white was "MSNBC Launch Team". I found it on the day the Capitol was attacked. It was a day that so many of us were glued to our television monitors trying to make sense of what was happening. Microsoft and NBC are no longer partners and MSNBC is a far different network than it was when we first started some 26 years ago. But watching the coverage bought a new sense of pride in what a few of us helped birth. Though the shirt was almost as old as my youngest son, it could not have gone on the heap with the other aged clothes. Instead, I proudly folded it neatly and laid it back in the drawer where I found it. Over a quarter century old, it lays right next to the black SuperNet tee.



Peacock Profiles
Joe Alicastro Interviewed by Marilyn Altman

Main Street Media (MSM) has been in the midst of controversy the past several years. It has had to deal with allegations of “fake news”, doctored video, and sexual misconduct by both high profile personalities as well as those in the front office. To date, a number of reputable surveys show that the American people’s confidence in MSM is very low. We at Peacock North Magazine thought it would be interesting to look into the state of journalism today by approaching one of our favorite sons, Joe Alicastro, now Professor Alicastro, Director, Masters in Journalism and Media Production at Sacred Heart University where he teaches graduate and undergraduate students. We asked if he could shed some light on how journalism is taught in this modern age and share his thoughts on the state of this crucial profession that helps protect freedom of speech.



Joe, in today's world, with so many platforms, and a 24/7 bombardment of information, how do you teach journalism and what precepts guided you to formulate your curriculum?

Teaching journalism today is certainly challenging. There's no question about it, because there are so many different formats. But it doesn't really matter whether you're sending out a tweet or you're writing a lengthy magazine piece for the New York Times, you're talking about telling a good story but telling it truthfully, fairly, accurately and balanced. That's the goal.

When you started in broadcasting, there were just a few networks which dominated television news. Now, news networks are numerous and news is on 24/7. On balance, has this expansion been good or bad for viewers?

You know, we're talking about news but, more broadly, we're talking about the Internet and all of the different available sources of information that we have today. On balance, I would say, yes, things are better because we have such easy access to so much information. That's challenging because what is the source of that information

that you are presenting? Is it coming from a source that's reliable? And that's lesson number one for all of my students. And how do you determine what a reliable source is if you've been in a news vacuum and you don't know? That's very, very difficult.

How is it different today from when you studied journalism and when you were a producer?

There were many fewer sources of information back then. And you could rely on them. The three networks went through a rigorous editorial policy every day. We knew what the good sources of information were and we didn't really have to search much further to get that information. Walter Cronkite was the most trusted man in America.

How do you teach that?

Today, I present my students with a list of what I consider to be reliable sources as a start. If they start with that, then they have to ask the question, “Well, what determines why they are reliable sources?” What determines why they're reliable sources is that they go through this rigorous editorial policy of truthfulness, fairness, balance, accuracy. And most of that just comes from the basic reporting of asking the questions: who, what, where, when, why and how; gathering facts. News should be based on facts.



2005: Joe in Rome with field producers Paul Nassar, Gene Choo and Frieda Morris.

Was covering a story in your day different than it is now?

Vastly. The 24-hour news cycle that has now become the 24-second news cycle- that's a major, major difference. I remember when I went to Rome, generally speaking, most bureaus had two reporters and a producer team to go along with those reporters: One reporter for the *Today* show, for the most part, the other for *Nightly News*. We were going to have to report for both. Well, in 1996 MSNBC came along and you had to feed the monster, 24 hours a day. There would be a lot of booking time for the reporter for both MSNBC and for the affiliates. All of that takes away time from reporting, from actually going out in the field and getting first-source information. And today, I'm sure the pressures are much, much worse. The deadlines are much tighter. There's less time to think, to be thoughtful, not only accurate, and you can see it in the writing. I don't mean to say that it's bad writing, it's just been done in a shorter period of time with a lot more pressure and less time to think and be clever and write the way Garrick Utley, Tom Pettit, John Hart, Douglas Kiker did. All of them were brilliant writers. They had time to write their scripts.

So, how do you think that affects truth and accuracy? And could you speak a little about if there is a difference between truth and accuracy?

When you get back to what I consider to be reliable sources, my daily, reliable sources for myself are the New York Times, my local newspaper, The Norwalk Hour, National Public Radio, and, of course, *Nightly News*, I don't see a lot of inaccuracy in any of those sources. If the Times makes a mistake, they print a correction. I don't see *Nightly News* making mistakes on the air very often in terms of accuracy or being wrong on a story, other than perhaps calling an election in the year 2000, of which I was a part!

But getting back to your question, the difference between truth and accuracy. Truth is supposed to be in accord with facts. That's the definition of truth. But accuracy is precise, exact. So, a truth is based on all of the things that we've talked about. But words can sometimes be stretched, for lack of a better way of saying it. And that's when we get into that whole old axiom of one man's truth is another man's lie. You can be truthful but, by the same token, not be accurate.

During the Trump administration, quite a few mainstream news reporters became adversarial, even hostile, when asking the President questions, and even in their reporting of his actions. Do you think this was justified?

I'm going to address that question by giving you a specific example because it's fresh in my mind. The week that we were supposed to have the second presidential debate President Trump opted out. That week, President Biden agreed to an interview with George Stephanopoulos. After that, President Trump agreed to an interview with Savannah Guthrie. So we at Sacred Heart addressed that on our TV news magazine program called *The Pulse*. The students went out and interviewed other students about what they thought. They also interviewed the dean of the university's political science professors, Professor Gary Rose. Professor Rose felt, after watching both of those interviews, that the interview with Biden was nothing but softball questions and that the interview with Savannah Guthrie was unfair, adversarial, and so on. I looked at that interview and saw that the students were going to use it and said, "We need to present an opposing point of view to Professor Rose, and that's going to be mine." What I said in that case was that I thought that the interview with then Vice President Biden was a civil discourse with fair and important questions that the American public needs to know before they make a decision on who will be the next president. And I thought that the interview with Savannah Guthrie was verbal warfare, and quite rightly so, because Savannah was doing nothing more than what journalists should do every day: Speak truth to power. And there were a lot of untruths coming out of the President's mouth in that interview that needed to be addressed. Now, maybe Savannah would've liked to have taken back "You're not somebody's crazy uncle coming out of the attic." But, it had gotten to that point in the interview that something needed to be said.

Do you think that journalism is better served today with so many outlets than it was in the Cronkite days?

Yeah, in those days we were more spoon-fed. We trusted those organizations to present us with the news. Sure, if you read the op-ed page on the New York Times now you were getting more into opinion and that might shape your own opinion. But there's a broader thing here that I think we're missing. It's great that we have so many choices and we have such easy access to information. That's one of the beautiful things about the Internet. It's not great when it becomes an echo chamber and you're only getting feedback in a loop of your own views, which is exactly how all of these websites are designed, right? They're designed that if you click on a story about QAnon, you're going to get more stories about QAnon. So, that's one problem with this vast amount of information that we have.

[Continued]

Today, that same pie is cut into thousands of small slices so we no longer have that shared experience. And it's not just in the news business. Nobody stands around by the water cooler talking about Johnny Carson's monologue as we did. We all loved Johnny, but today, though we might quickly look at the comments of the top ten comedians' shows from the night before it's just not that same shared experience.

Circling back to my question, do you think that we're better off for it?

I don't know. I think the divisiveness in the country is a product of our modern technology and our model, the modern delivery of information. It's for sure, that is contributing to the divisiveness in the country.

You started teaching in 2008. Has anything changed other than you've gotten much better at it? You're an old hand at it now.



1990: Dhahran, Saudi Arabia during Gulf War with correspondent Arthur Kent

Oh, not just me, but everything has changed. Technology, for one thing. I teach not just journalism but media production as well. The technology has radically changed. My students are using the automated rundown; we do live shots out of our building at Sacred Heart to ESPN through broadband [when] Bobby Valentine, our athletic director, has to appear. That wasn't possible back then. Technology continues to change. I always tell my students, "Don't worry about it. Technology's going to change and it's going to change faster in your lifetime than it did in my lifetime. The characters in your stories will walk right into the room as holograms. And that's probably part of your future." We have an expert in VR and AR (virtual reality and augmented reality) on our staff, and she's brilliant. She's from China. And the things that I see her doing, I can definitely see being a part of news, entertainment and sports at some point.

How has the pandemic affected your teaching?

The pandemic has affected my teaching in exactly the same way that it affected the networks at the same time. We had to revert to do exactly what the networks did. Students did stories in the field. My undergrads with their iPhones, my graduates with their camera kit that we give them at the beginning of the year. They had all the equipment to do field work. They had Adobe Premiere on their laptops to be able to edit with. And then, using WeTransfer, they transferred the files to one central place where one student would put the whole show together. And then we uploaded it to our website and to YouTube as we always do. And like that, modern times.

Who do you admire most as a journalist and why?

I was so lucky to have a 30-year career at one of the greatest news organizations in the world, and to have started out with David Brinkley as my first anchor. Then I worked with John Chancellor on the 1984 election. And then, of course, all those wonderful years with Tom Brokaw and all of the reporters that I worked with. But not just them. Some of the mentors were people like Bill Wheatley, Bill Chesleigh and Gordon Manning. I learned so much from all of them, from my colleagues, from my camera crews and from my engineers. So, whom do I most admire? It's a really hard question to answer.

I think you just did. What puts all of them in that special bucket and sets them apart?

Integrity, honesty, talent, dedication; all of those things. And all of those things without even asking. You knew that that's what you had to do to do the job as an NBC News employee.

What would you say about journalists like Katie Couric and Gene Washington who just called out half the voting population, the Trump voters, and stated that they should be deprogrammed?

You know you don't deprogram somebody, you educate somebody. And I think deprogramming, that's really a harsh way of looking at half of the population in the United States. It kind of reminds me of that quote from Hillary Clinton when she referred to half of the Trump supporters as "The Deplorables". And that's not how you do it. How do you do it? I believe firmly, especially now that we've seen the power of social media, the power of all media on our society. I think that media literacy has to become part of the core curriculum starting in the first grade, if not sooner.

Don't you think that we had that?

No, media literacy means people that are-- totally versed in media ethics and media literacy. That is a study in and of itself, an academic study. I think media literacy goes beyond me. I mean I'm still more of a journalist and a producer. But, somebody who's really an academic in media literacy is seeing a lot of things that I'm not seeing.

Any predictions about what's going to happen with mainstream media?

It's kind of interesting. The death knell for television broadcast news has been around for about 20 years but it's not gone. When radio was invented they thought movies were going to die; and when television was invented, they thought radio was going to die. Everything seems to find its niche, maybe in a different way, maybe with a smaller audience, but it survives. And so, yeah, things will continue to change. Who would've foreseen that podcasting would have become as unbelievably popular as it is? And after all, podcasting is no more than recorded radio.

It's on demand.

Yeah. I think on demand will continue to grow. It depends somewhat on technology; things that we're not foreseeing right now. Maybe those holograms I was talking about before.

Do you encourage your students to become journalists?

Absolutely. But I also give them a reality test, too. Don't think you're going to have a normal life if you want to become a journalist.

Do you think that people can make a decent living being a journalist today? I know a lot of people who discourage their kids from going into broadcast, news or otherwise but you, you're still a fan?

Yeah, I am. Look, not everybody is going to be successful in a career in journalism or a career in broadcasting or media production. But on the media production side of it, what I tell my students is every company is a media company. And if they're not a media company, they're outta business. They all need to deal with media. They all need to use media. And so, the skills that they're learning, not just in broadcasting but also in social media, all of the different skill sets that we teach in our programs, those are in-demand positions. In terms purely of broadcast journalism, I have students all over the country now that are reporters. And I've been doing it long enough now that I've seen them start to move up-market. And that's happened already to quite a few of my students. And with moving upmarket, they'll get better salaries. And do I see it returning to the days where every producer had an agent? No, that's probably gone by the wayside but I still think you can make a living. And that's not the right reason to go into broadcast journalism anyway.

**What is?**

Those things that I said before: dedication, integrity, honesty and a little bit of do you want to help to make the world a better place.

What haven't I asked you that I should have?

Why do I teach?

Okay. Why do you teach?

I teach because, as I said before, I had wonderful mentors at NBC, and stand on the shoulders of giants. I knew what I wanted to do when I left NBC. I knew I wanted to teach. But more importantly than wanting to teach, I wanted to pass it on. I wanted to pass on everything; those gifts that were given to me by my mentors. Because if I pass them on, they were the ones that really developed it and I'm just the conduit passing it on to the next generation.

*Gray Matters***Pension and Annuity Information from Bill Freeda**

As of January 1, 2021, GE has decided to take 1.7 billion dollars of the GE Pension Trust, and give it to Athene, an insurance company, to manage. **This action will affect about 70,000 pensioners who have not begun collecting their monthly pension, and it will only affect monthly pension payments of \$360 or less.**

These pensioners will receive their monthly pension payments from Athene, not GE. I believe that GE is doing this for a number of reasons. It removes their obligation for 70,000 pensioners. This benefits GE by reducing their obligation for any underfunding created by this \$1.7 billion. It also reduces their premium they pay to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC).

Following is an explanation by the Pension Rights Center of what this action has on the affected pensioners.

The full fact sheet with reference links can be found at:

<http://www.pensionrights.org/publications/fact-sheet/what-happens-when-pension-transferred-insurance-company>

Feel free to call me on my cell number (516) 376-9785 if you have further questions.

What happens when a pension is transferred to an insurance company?

In 2012, General Motors and Verizon entered into arrangements with Prudential Insurance Company to pay the pensions of certain groups of their salaried retirees. Both companies transferred pension assets to Prudential, which meant that the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, the federal agency that insures most private pension plans, no longer insured the pensions. Since then, a number of other employers have followed suit, sparking questions and concerns from retirees who are affected.

What happens to my pension when it gets transferred to an insurance company?

If you are already getting your pension and your former employer decides to convert it to an annuity paid by an insurance company, your monthly benefit should stay the same. However, your benefits will no longer be protected by the federal pension insurance program, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation. Instead, insurance annuities are covered by State Guaranty Associations (see below), which provide some protection in the event that insurance companies fail.

If you haven't retired yet, and your pension is transferred to an insurance company, you should make sure that both your employer and the insurance company have all of the correct information that goes into calculating your benefit. This includes dates of employment, salary history, and any survivors' benefit you and your spouse have chosen. You should also make sure that you have the most recent copy of your individual benefit statement. It is not unusual for an insurance company to recalculate benefits when taking over a plan, and having this information will help to prevent disputes over how much you are supposed to receive once you start receiving your annuity.

What are State Guaranty Associations?

A: Every state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, has a State Guaranty Association, a nonprofit institution established to protect insurance policyholders who live in that state in the event that an insurance company becomes insolvent (See this FAQ from the National Organization of Life and Health Guaranty Associations (NOLHGA). All insurance companies that are licensed in a state are required by law to participate in that state's State Guaranty Association.

What are the guarantee limits for an annuity from an insurance company?

Guarantee limits vary by state. Each state provides a guarantee of at least \$100,000 for the present value of an annuity. In many cases the limit is \$250,000 or \$300,000 or, in a few states, \$500,000. If the value of your benefit exceeds the amount protected by your State Guaranty Association, you can submit a claim for the excess in insolvency proceedings against the estate of the liquidated company.

How are the State Guaranty Associations paid for?

If an insurance company is declared insolvent, the other insurance companies licensed in the state will be required to pay into the State Guaranty Association. Money in the Association and assets from the liquidation of the insolvent company are used to provide as much of the annuity benefits promised by the insolvent insurer as possible.

What are the requirements for receiving funds from a Guaranty Association if the insurance company providing my annuity fails?

If an insurance company licensed in your state becomes insolvent, a State Guaranty Association will cover your individual annuity (or individual certificate under a group annuity), and those of other residents of the state, up to the Association's limits. Individual and group annuities are the policies that insurance companies typically issue when they take over pension plans.

If the insurance company is not licensed in your state, the State Guaranty Association in your state will not be responsible if the insurance company becomes insolvent. Instead, policyholders will most likely be covered by the State Guaranty Association in the state where the insurance company is incorporated.

How can I find out if an insurance company is licensed in my state?

Contact your state insurance department to find out if the insurance company paying your annuity is licensed to operate in your state. The website for every state insurance commission is listed here. Many of these sites allow you to search for authorized/licensed companies.

How often does an insurance company become insolvent?

According to NOLHGA, since 1983 there have been approximately 100 failures of life and health insurance companies that offer policies to residents of more than one state. Most of these failures occurred during the 1990s, and relatively few have occurred recently.

Is there a way to assess the financial health of an insurance company?

Each insurance company is required to file an annual report, which should be posted on its website. You can also look at the financial strength grade provided Weiss Ratings. These ratings are independently compiled and you can search for your companies' rating via TheStreet.com. You can also pay for a detailed report from Weiss. There are other rating companies, such as A.M. Best, S&P, Moody's, and Fitch. However, they accept money from the insurance industry, which could create conflicts of interest.

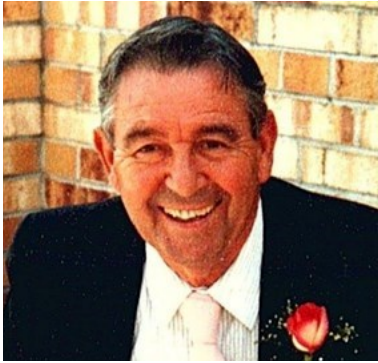
How can I get more information about my State Guaranty Association?

The National Organization of Life and Health Guaranty Associations website links to each of the State Guaranty Associations.

Please visit www.nolhga.com for these details.

Tributes to Silent Microphones

Herb Greeley



The Greeley family is heartbroken to announce the loss of Herbert Walter Greeley, beloved father, grandfather, uncle, and friend. Herb Greeley, as he was affectionately known throughout his life, passed peacefully at Holmes Regional Hospital in Melbourne on January 20, 2021 at the age of 96.

Born in Westerly, Rhode Island on November 9, 1924, the third son of Italian immigrants Rosana and James Greeley (Guariglia), Herb graduated from Stonington High School in 1942. He pursued a BS in Electrical Engineering at the University of Rhode Island until his induction into the US Navy during World War II in 1944. He served honorably as an Electrician's Mate 2nd Class aboard USS Stewart and USS Martin H. Ray until 1946. Herb graduated Class of 1948 at URI and was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. He would again proudly and honorably serve his country in the US Navy during the Korean War from 1950 to 1952.

Herb worked for nearly forty years as Lighting Designer and Director for NBC Television at Rockefeller Center in New York. He was a pioneer in the industry, lighting such seminal television programs as *The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson*, *Saturday Night Live*, and *Late Night with David Letterman*. Among his other show credits were daytime soap operas including *The Doctors*, popular game shows *What's My Line?* and *To Tell the Truth*, *NBC Nightly News* and televised NBC sporting events including the World Series, NCAA College Basketball, and the Orange Bowl.

His career spanned the entertainment industry both in television and theatrically. He worked with many of the world's funniest comedians and his love of comedy greatly contributed to his upbeat personality and jovial spirit. Herb loved a good joke and would never miss an opportunity to share his personal "material", always with a smile, a laugh, and a twinkle in his eye.

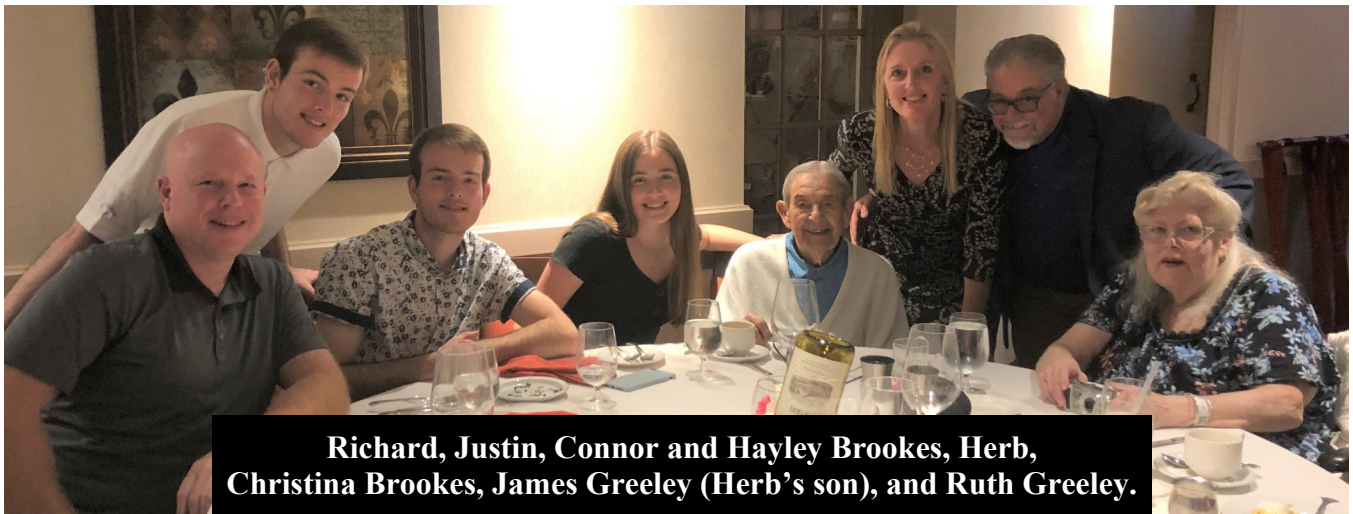
He came from a musical family and was trained classically in violin. He was especially fond of playing mandolin.

Herb retired to the Space Coast and settled in Melbourne. He and his wife Ruth joined Suntree Country Club, playing golf, tennis, and participating in social events. For many years Herb served as a lector at Ascension Catholic Church. His faith and dedication to family were the most important callings in his life. He is predeceased by his two brothers, Edward Greeley and George Greeley, his nephews, Clinton Wheeler III and Edward Greeley, and his niece, Lisa Leiter. He is survived by his wife of almost sixty years, Ruth Greeley, his sister Louise Greeley Wheeler, his son James Greeley, daughter Christina Brookes and son-in-law Richard Brookes. He was grandfather to Connor, Justin, and Hayley Brookes and is also survived by his loving extended family and many friends.

Herb Greeley was a generous, kind, soul and will be greatly missed.

In remembrance, in lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in his name to St Jude Children's Research Hospital or World Central Kitchen.

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*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Pat Lynch**

Patricia Lynch, an investigative television journalist who specialized in exposing cults and their leaders, including Lyndon LaRouche, a political extremist who ran for president eight times, died on Feb. 3 at her home in Manhattan. She was 82. The cause was complications of Alzheimer's disease, said William O. Wheatley Jr., her former boss at NBC.

Ms. Lynch was one of the first women to be named an investigative producer for "NBC Nightly News," joining its investigative unit in 1977. In nearly 20 years at NBC, she won two Emmys and shared in an Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University award for investigative journalism. Ms. Lynch focused on consumer-oriented issues and notably produced a series on abuses in nursing homes. But she also became interested in fringe groups that

were run by charismatic leaders and that had developed reputations for bizarre activities or beliefs. In one instance she reported extensively on the Rev. Jim Jones, who led more than 900 members of his People's Temple of Disciples of Christ to mass suicide in the Jonestown massacre in Guyana in 1978.

Her best-known work was her coverage of Mr. LaRouche, a perennial presidential candidate who started out on the far left of the political spectrum and moved far to the right. He was at the peak of his power in the mid-1980s, when he moved his headquarters to a large rented estate in Northern Virginia, patrolled by men with semiautomatic rifles. In two reports in 1984 for "First Camera," a short-lived NBC news magazine program, Ms. Lynch maintained that Mr. LaRouche was, as she recounted in a 1985 article in *The Columbia Journalism Review*, "the leader of a violence-prone, anti-Semitic cult that smeared its opponents and sued its critics." Former LaRouchians, as they were called, told her that their leader had talked about assassinating President Jimmy Carter. After Ms. Lynch's reports were broadcast, LaRouche adherents picketed NBC, carrying signs that said, "Lynch Pat Lynch." She received at least one death threat, and her parents' Long Island neighborhood was littered with fliers saying that she was running a call-girl operation from their house. Mr. LaRouche filed a defamation suit against NBC. When a federal jury rejected his claim, NBC countersued, accusing the group of engaging in dirty tricks and impersonating Ms. Lynch to sabotage her reporting. The jury awarded the network \$3 million in damages, an amount later reduced to \$258,000.

"She was an aggressive reporter," Mr. Wheatley, who became executive producer of the "NBC Nightly News," said in a phone interview. "She was fearless and had a very strong sense of right and wrong."

Patricia Kathleen Lynch was born on March 5, 1938, in the village of Floral Park on Long Island. Her parents, Harold and Violet Lynch, were teachers in the New York City school system. Ms. Lynch attended the now-closed College of New Rochelle, majoring in English and graduating in 1959. She received a master's degree in English from Boston College in 1961.

She left NBC in the early 1990s and became a freelance writer. She left no immediate survivors. Ms. Lynch, who had a second home in Southampton, N.Y., volunteered at two animal shelters on Long Island's East End but was later banned from both after she publicly criticized their euthanasia policies and made a documentary film critical of the Southampton town animal shelter. She sued the shelter saying she had been banned in violation of her First Amendment right to speak out. In 2007, the court ruled in her favor. The decision was upheld on appeal and established the precedent that volunteers should be afforded the same rights as paid employees. "I only did any of this for the animals," Ms. Lynch later said. "As a journalist, I am used to the heat."

By Katharine Q. Seelye, © The New York Times, February 19, 2021

*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Donald Gogarty Remembered
by his wife Mildred**

My husband, Donald Gogarty, died from Covid-19 on April 13th, 2020. He wasn't famous, just an employee of NBC who worked in the Print Shop. He operated a small press called a Multilith which was used to print soap opera scripts popular during the late 1940s and 50s. In later years he graduated to a large 2-color press which enabled him to produce more sophisticated work. The department was renamed Reprographics because of the variety of jobs which were accomplished. He loved his work and was a proud NBC employee.

I remember when Donald told me there was a group of retired engineers who met monthly for lunch at a diner to discuss what was new in their lives. I think one of them was named Pete [Ed. – That was Pete Peterson]. They approached Donald to print it and I think that was the start of Peacock North.

I met Donald in late 1949 when I started a job in the NBC Stenographic Department typing the scripts he then printed. We became friends, and, after a few years, a happy couple. We were married on February 13, 1954. Donald worked for NBC for 53 years full-time and approximately five years part-time. He was a loyal friend, a devoted father to Ellen, John and Virginia; grandfather to six and great-grandfather to two. He was the love of my life.



He was one of the first among thousands lost in this pandemic. He was recovering from elective surgery in a rehab facility. I felt strongly that I had to honor him by writing this piece in a magazine he enjoyed, about the people who worked for NBC, a company that meant so much to him.



*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Katherine Creag**

Katherine Creag, a beloved member of the News 4 family who was a stalwart of New York City's mornings on "Today in New York" for years, passed away suddenly on the evening of December 10th.

Creag joined WNBC in 2011 and spent the better part of the last decade covering anything and everything across our region. Instantly recognizable for her distinctive voice and hearty laugh, Creag was the first face many New Yorkers woke up to every day.

Her passing was unexpected; she had not been ill and was working as recently as the morning of December 10th.

"For ten years Kat was one of our cornerstones, always willing to help in any situation, whether it was a colleague in need or a shift that needed to be covered. She was thoughtful, funny and relentless. And even on the toughest days she was a bright light, quick with a kind word and a smile," WNBC's vice president of news, Amy Morris, said in an email to the staff.

Colleagues knew her boundless energy well. One of her bios on social media read "Sleep, what's that?! I go to work when you're coming home from the club." They also knew all about her passion for good Filipino food, often shouting out whenever a new restaurant had opened for her to try.

A 1996 NYU graduate who spent five years at Fox before joining NBC, Creag won or shared in winning multiple Emmys, AP and Murrow awards over the course of a career that also took her to Dallas, Charlotte and Syracuse.

The Manila native and supporter of multiple charities was the devoted and loving mother of three young children, a son and two daughters. She is survived by them and her husband of 14 years, Bill Gafner.

Tributes to Silent Microphones

Broadcast Systems Engineer Jon Jones passed away from leukemia on December 15th, 2020 at age 82.

Jon W. Jones Remembered by his Brother, Alan



Jon was born on May 5th, 1938, in Omaha, Nebraska. The family moved to Denver in 1946. Jon was a serious baseball fan and he joined a little league team. He had a life-long loyalty to the St Louis Cardinals and closely followed their standings and statistics.

In November 1949 we moved to Junkins Park in the Wet Mountains near Rosita, Colorado, where we lived and worked on a 1,025-acre ranch raising cattle and operating a small milking operation. He was the studious, serious type and spent most of his free time indoors reading or listening to baseball games on the radio. He was a critical thinker. His memory of current and past events of domestic and foreign history was remarkable.

Jon was a passionate Democrat who seriously followed local and national politics. If you cared to engage him politically you better have done your homework. He was a very social person and could entertain any gathering of his peers and make sport of himself with stories of his many self-inflicted predicaments. In 1954 we moved back to the city life of Canon City, Colorado. Jon's high school grades earned him a nomination to both the Air Force and Naval

Academies. Unfortunately, he failed the entrance physical because of high blood pressure. He then went on to earn an MSEE from Colorado University. After graduation, he was employed by Zenith Corporation in Chicago, and later with RCA, parent company of NBC, in New York City.

Though we were separated during most of our adult lives as our careers put miles between us, I was fortunate to be an aviator and was able to make frequent visits to New York. On many "Cook's tours" of the NBC facilities in Rockefeller Center Jon showed me endless miles of cables from rows of electronic hardware all designed and constructed by engineers like Jon to tie it all together.

Jon married Patricia Ann Scott of New Rochelle and settled in New Milford, New Jersey. They had two sons, Scott, and also Douglas, who died shortly after birth. The family lived there until Jon retired from NBC and moved to Canon City, Colorado, with Scott. Patty predeceased him prior to the move.

Jon had lived in Canon City for the past three years and I had a chance to spend more time with him. In the end cancer consumed his life. He is survived by his son Scott who remains in Canon City. Also in Colorado are brothers Albert Spencer of Durango, and me, Alan Jones of Centennial. I loved him dearly and I will miss him. I was fortunate to visit him hours before his death and was grateful that he didn't appear to be in pain at the end.

Jon's Colleagues Remember Him

Frank Snell writes: I first met "Jonesey" in 1973 when I joined the NBC Broadcast Systems Engineering Department. I was fresh out of college and I was assigned to work under Jon's wing on his projects. He had a wealth of experience and taught me a lot about procedures and engineering practices. There was never a dull moment working with Jon, and we soon learned he had quite a good sense of humor. Jon was the victim of many pranks. Some of these stunts would invoke the "Jones Rage". He was quite the movie buff. One time I asked him which movies he was going to see that night. After he told me their titles I said I had seen one of them (which I didn't) and then told him the movie's ending (which I made up). He was so angry he chased me down the hall with a large drawing storage tube. **Pete Maiorino**, who met Jon in 1984, recalls another practical joke: "I decided to have Ting Tam from the Drafting Department call his home on his day off and pretend to be an IRS agent, questioning why he did not report all his income on his tax returns. While I'm listening on an extension, I can feel Jon's fear and sweat through the phone. After a few minutes of this Ting started to talk in Chinese and Jon immediately knew it was a prank and started calling out my name blaming me for this evil deed. I had to avoid Jon for a few weeks to avoid the infamous "Jones Rage". Jon also developed into quite the stand-up comedian. He delivered many a hilarious roast of retirees at their retirement parties, and left everyone roaring with laughter (but sometimes not the retiree or their horrified spouse). Later in our careers, Jon and I shared an office for about 5 years. I observed how knowledgeable he was on many different subjects. I also saw how good he was at logic circuit design. It was a good 5 years and I'm glad that I got to know Jon better."

Tributes to Silent Microphones

Carl Henry III



Carl M. Henry III, 61, died at home on January 21, 2021 in S. Hempstead, NY. Raised in Baldwin, NY, Carl was a video engineer at NBC for 40 years, working on shows such as David Letterman, Conan O'Brien and the *Today Show*. His love for the camera began in his teenage years, creating independent film projects with life-long friend Richard Carter. Carl is survived by long- time companion Sherri Petersen of Ft. Meyers, FL.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations in Carl Henry's memory to support the American Diabetes Association at www.diabetes.org

Some of my greatest times at NBC were spent in the company of Carl. I have always been in awe of the skill, talent and affection that I've witnessed from working at 30 Rock, and especially Carl, who I worked alongside with on Late Night with Conan O'Brien. He was longtime friends with one the best camera folks in the business, Rich Carter, and the two of them gave me so many laughs. Along the way Carl demonstrated such knowledge, discipline and genuine love for his profession that he taught me what a professional truly is. Life is short, unfair and tough. Lovely friends like Carl showed me how to behave, be generous, and smile whenever you can.

Paul Scrabo

Such sad news. Spent many hours shooting the breeze with Carl on so many shows I had the pleasure to direct. I also knew his dad when I worked in TOPS so many years ago. Condolences to his family and so many friends. RIP Carl.

John LiBretto

The Blue Sky and the Clouds look much more intense today.....

RIP Carl Henry...

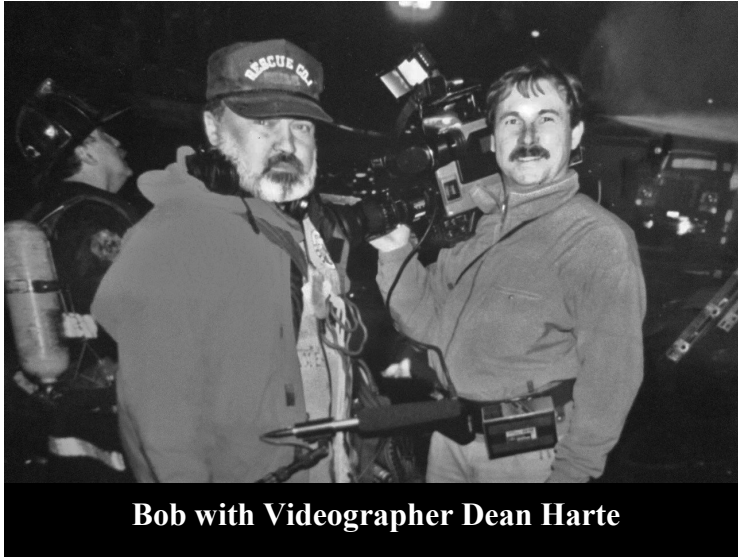
Ed Cicero



**At the 1989
Late Night
with David
Letterman
remote in
Chicago...**

**Carl outside
the venue,
and inside
the mobile
unit with
Paul Scrabo.**



*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Bob Gonzalez****Bob with Videographer Dean Harte**

Robert Gonzalez, 76, of Fort Lee, passed away on Tuesday, February 16, 2021. Before retiring, Robert worked for WNBC as a sound technician. Robert was an Army veteran who served our country proudly during the Vietnam War.

Robert -- known affectionately at work as Gonzo -- had a long and storied career at WNBC, traveling across the country and around the world for his assignments. The many reporters he worked with credit him for "teaching them how to survive in New York City," and making them laugh while doing so.

He had stories for everything, and opinions about everything, too. He loved to listen to salsa music, watch sports, read history books and couldn't pass up a plate of *arroz con pollo*. He loved to collect Chinese antiquities and artwork and toy soldiers, trading and selling them while learning of their history.

He was a good listener and even better at giving advice, his voice one of reason and calm, with one steadfast message: do the right thing, even when it's not the easy thing.

For Bob, there was a lesson in everything. How to be a good worker. How to handle different personalities. How to be a good man. How to put family first. And how to love. And love he did, especially his children. His family was a source of great pride for him: both sons followed him into the world of television news, and once he started talking about his grandchildren, he couldn't stop. They brought him pride and joy, and as he liked to say "proof that the circle of life is real." Memorial contributions in Robert's honor can be made to the Make-a-Wish Foundation.

Devoted father of Jennifer Schaefer and her husband Richard; Robert Gonzalez, Jr.; and David Gonzalez and his wife Amanda. Cherished grandfather of Richard, Matthew, Madeline and Annabelle. Predeceased by his loving wife Sonia.

A funeral Service was held on Saturday, February 20, 2021 at the Vander Plaat Memorial Home. Private cremation.

© Vander Plaat Memorial Home

*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Pat Souza**

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Patricia Souza. Pat had battled health issues and they took their toll. Let's remember Pat taking command in BOC with the *Today Show* and countless special reports. For anyone who worked with Pat, you would know her professionalism and respect she had for others. Please keep her family in your thoughts. She will be missed. There will be a memorial in 2021.

Roe Castagna, December 24, 2020

Pat keeping us straight in Switching Central, circa 1989. So sorry to hear of this. Patty was a trailblazer @ work, & someone who faced her own private challenges in health & the loss of her husband Larry many years ago. During down times in BOC we'd be discussing feline attitudes & the care of our cats! I always received a Holiday card from her. Sad that that card didn't make it this year. Rest well Patty with your cats & husband. All are @ peace.

Peter Sullivan

A great lady! So sad to hear of her passing. May she soar with the angels. My condolences to her friends and family and may the memories she left with them always bring a smile.

Nancy McGlynn Petekiewicz

What a lovely person, there when I started through my whole career. So sad.

Mark Traub

A memory: Pat's husband, Larry, would often stop by BOC to share a few moments with Pat. He would always say hello to those on the back deck.

Pat Acheson

I'm so deeply sorry to hear this. Pat was so lovely. When I first became an AD, she rescued me more times than I can count and we laughed through the control room terror of the day! Very sad news.

Robert Spring

She was one of the kindest souls I'd ever known. She was certainly not a push-over however. She was an A.D. in Switching Central prior to her working in BOC and we spent many hours together, side by side, at the console in Switching. I will miss her confident direction and her pleasant conversation. I seem to remember that she had a kidney transplant in the mid to late 1980s.

Tom Launer

**Bobby Keys**

A great cameraman and a wonderful person Bobby Keyes passed away recently after losing his battle with cancer. Bobby worked with us in NBC Sports but that was only a small part of his career. He covered NASA splashdowns, he worked entertainment shows and he was the first cameraman to cover the Titanic sighting at the bottom of the ocean. He was also a fine film cinematographer. He was awarded many honors in his career and to add to it, was humble, quiet and just one very nice person. Rest in Peace, Bobby.

Ken Fouts

One of my first and favorite jobs was being the runner for the RF "Creepy" camera team in San Diego 1975 NCAA final four. Bobby, Roger Harbaugh, Mario Ciarlo, Hal Scott and Pappy Pearson. RIP Bobby.

Rick Stern

When Bobby Keyes put the camera on his shoulder he made whoever was sitting in "the chair" look better. On the East Coast, it was Corey, but on the West Coast it was all Bobby. He treated every event like it was The Super Bowl. His wonderful eye was only surpassed by the quality of the man. RIP Robert Keyes I was fortunate to have known you.

Jim Cross

New Member News

During **Barbara Duffy's** 32 years @ NBC News, she worked for both News finance as coordinator and NN/WKNN as Program Manager. In addition, she worked with the Specials Unit covering conventions and Election night coverage. Along the way, she worked with so many talented people and formed wonderful Friendships. She retired 9/21/20.

Bob Epstein's official dates at NBC News were from February 1996--joining the launch of MSNBC---until January 2021--I also worked a year for NBC News at WMAQ/WNIS Radio in Chicago in 1976---extra trivia points for anyone who remembers the NBC Radio News and Information Service---a short lived attempt at all news radio--an idea either way ahead or way behind its time. He took the buyout at the end of 2020 -- and now looks forward to whatever comes next. We'll be splitting time between New York and Connecticut.

Clare (Duffy) Swift writes: I started at NBC as an intern in January of 1987 with Herb Bloom and Steve Handelsman and the TVSD O & O News Production Unit. I then moved to NY to work at NBC Radio while going to graduate school, and then moved overseas to work in first the Budapest, then the Moscow bureau. Back then we had two correspondents based in Moscow, Bob Abernethy and Jim Maceda. I was there for 1990 and 1991, then moved back to work on the foreign desk. After a short stint at *Weekend Today* (the Scott Simon/Jackie Nespral era), I moved to *Dateline* (the Stone/Jane/Neal Shapiro five-nights-a-week era). In 2000, I moved over to *Nightly* and was a producer and senior producer there through 2013, when I began to work full time with Tom Brokaw (while continuing to fill in as needed at NN). I have covered eight Olympics (four with News, four with Sports), and while at NN, spent a lot of time on the Catholic Church beat, working with Anne Thompson, covering the sexual abuse crisis in the early 2000s, the death of Pope John Paul II, his beatification and canonization, the conclave that elected Pope Francis in 2013 and many Papal trips, from South Korea to Brazil to Cuba. I timed my buyout to Tom's retirement, and here we are. I now live in central Florida with my husband, a former senior writer for Sports Illustrated.

From 1979 – 1991 **Richard Berman** was a News Editor for *Nightly News* in New York. He wrote a large portion of the program, produced more than 100 features for the program (some winning national awards), participated in choosing the subjects to be covered, attended four national political conventions, interviewed many notable Americans including Bill and Hillary Clinton, Alan Greenspan, Newt Gingrich and others. He went on to work in public relations concentrating on publicizing organizations specializing in employment and career placement. He also wrote White Papers, Business Plans, Customer Success Stories, New Releases and Trade Articles.

Christine Colvin Casper was a writer for NBC Nightly News from 1993-2013.

Here's her story: A proud member of the team that took NBC Nightly News to the top of the ratings race in the mid-90s; no one has ever had more fun at a job than Chris Colvin working with Tom Brokaw and a tremendous group of talented, brave, intelligent colleagues who never took themselves too seriously.

After dating most of the men in the tri-state area, Chris fell in love with a Chicago guy (also named Chris), and has been busy in recent years driving cars full of stinky hockey players all over the Midwest. One of them is her son, Peter, a junior at New Trier Township High School. She lives a stone's throw away in Kenilworth, IL with her husband, mom, who joined them during Covid from her home in Massachusetts, and their faithful rescue mutt Hippo.



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