

# Broadcasting Multichannel News + Cable

VOLUME 154 • NUMBER 6  
OCTOBER 2024 • \$6.95

ESPN'S DICK VITALE:  
HUMANITARIAN AWARD HONOREE



## B+C Broadcasting + Cable HALL of FAME

Honoring our 32nd class of the TV industry's most  
influential executives and personalities



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**BROADCASTING + CABLE**  
**HALL *of* FAME**  
**HONOREES**

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**AROUH**

BOB  
**BAKISH**

PHILIP R.  
**BEUTH**

VALARI  
**DOBSON STAAB**

KAREN  
**DOUGHERTY BUCHHOLZ**

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**GABELLI**

MARIANNE  
**GAMBELLI**

SCOTT  
**HERMAN**

DOUGLAS V.  
**HOLLOWAY**

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# Welcome to the 32nd Annual 'B+C' Hall of Fame

**T**onight we gather to celebrate a very special event — the 32nd class of the B+C Hall of Fame, recognized for their unique contributions to our industry.

In 1991, at the 60th anniversary of Broadcasting magazine, the Hall of Fame was created to honor 60 significant contributors to TV and electronic media. The original class included industry legends ranging from Guglielmo Marconi to William S. Paley, Lucille Ball, cable pioneers Bill Daniels and Dr. John Malone and C-SPAN founder Brian Lamb, to name but a few.

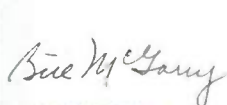
In the ensuing years, we've inducted Hall of Famers as much for their impact in the community that watches TV as we have for their influence on the medium. This year is no exception, as exemplified by both Service to the Community Award winner Phil Beuth and Humanitarian Award winner Dick Vitale. Phil was the very first person hired by Capital Cities Communications founder Tom Murphy in 1955 and, alongside Dan Burke, he helped direct the growth of ABC from when CapCities acquired it in a landmark 1985 merger until his 1997 retirement. The broadcaster affectionately known as "Dickie V" needs no introduction to sports fans — he's been ESPN's lead college basketball analyst since 1979. Just as noteworthy as his Hall of Fame broadcasting career is his effort to fight pediatric cancer as his annual Dick Vitale Gala in Sarasota, Florida, raised some \$24 million for research this past May. His efforts are all the more poignant as he battles cancer himself.

Arthur Wagner, Active International executive chairman of the board and founder, receives the Lifetime Achievement Award for helping establish the barter market in television advertising. Gabelli Funds chief investment officer Mario J. Gabelli, the Chairman's Award winner, has been an influential investor for more than 50 years.

Rounding out the notables in this year's class are Janice Arouh, president, network distribution at Allen Media Group; Bob Bakish, president and CEO at Paramount Global until earlier this year; Valari Dobson Staab, chairman, NBCUniversal Local; Karen Dougherty Buchholz, executive VP of administration at Comcast; Marianne Gambelli, who recently retired as president of advertising sales, marketing & brand partnerships at Fox; Scott Herman, a retired CBS Radio executive who now chairs the Broadcasters Foundation of America; Douglas V. Holloway, who helped build the cable business at USA Networks and NBCUniversal and is now president of Homewood Media; Steve Lanzano, president and CEO of the TVB; B+C Hall of Fame chairman Bill McGorry, a 40-year industry publishing veteran; Debra OConnell, president, news group and networks, Disney Entertainment Television; and George Stephanopolous, co-anchor of ABC's Good Morning America and anchor of This Week With George Stephanopolous.

As always, this year's gala will support the Broadcasters Foundation, which provides support to men and women in the TV and radio industry who find themselves in acute financial need due to a critical illness, severe accident or other serious misfortune, along with the Paley Center for Media.

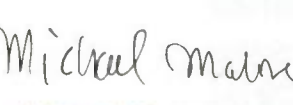
We thank tonight's co-hosts, Brian Custer of ESPN's SportsCenter; actor, producer, TV/radio host and New York Times best-selling author Mario Lopez; and ABC News correspondent, 20/20 co-anchor (and B+C Hall of Famer) Deborah Roberts. Thanks also to our in-house editorial and sales staffs at B+C; the marketing and production teams; and Future B2B events leader Cassandra Grant. And, of course, our event producers at Live Star Entertainment, Eric Drath and Danielle Naassana; as well as Alan Winnikoff and Carina Sayles, our PR team; and especially our sales team, led by Dena Malouf, Jessica Wolin and Jo Stanley. Finally, thanks to you, our inductees and company sponsors, alumni and attendees, for your support and generosity. Thank you all!



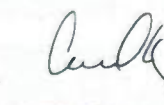
Bill McGorry,  
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News and Next TV

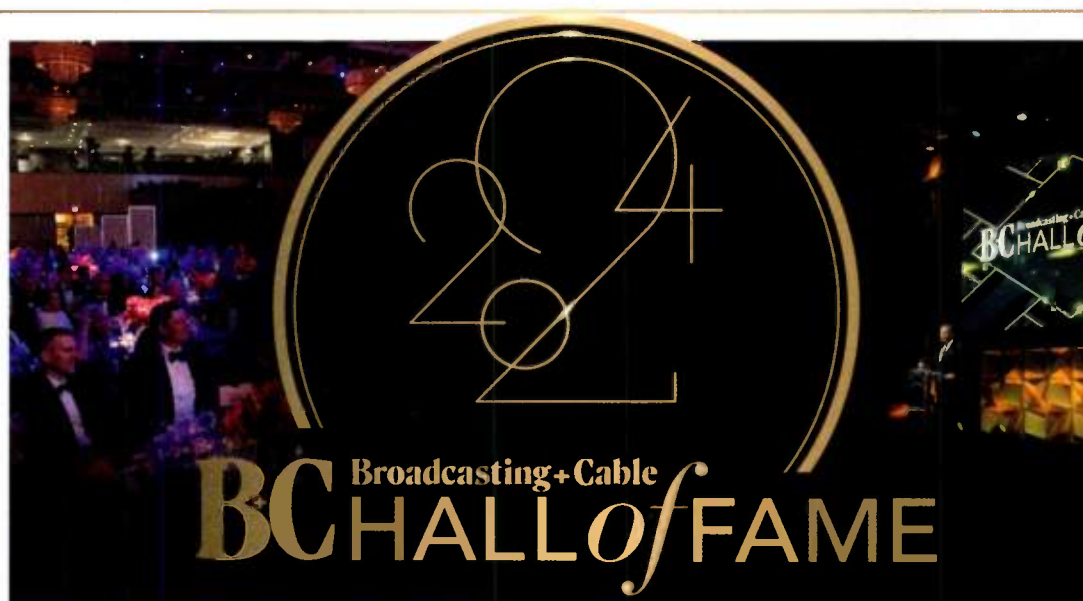


Carmel King,  
VP, Global Head of  
Content, Future B2B

Vol. 154 • No. 6 • October 2024 • B+C Broadcasting & Cable (1068-1627) is published 6 times per year (Feb, March, June, Sept, Oct, Dec) by Future US, Inc., 130 W. 42nd St., 7th Floor, New York, NY 10036. Periodicals postage rates are paid at New York, NY, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Broadcasting & Cable, PO Box 848, Lowell, MA 01853. Printed in U.S.A.  
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FUTURE

Connectors  
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## THE EVENING

### LOCATION

Ziegfeld Ballroom, 141 W. 54 St., New York  
Thursday, September 26, 2024  
Cocktail Reception: 5:30 p.m.  
Awards Ceremony & Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

### WELCOMING REMARKS

William McGorry  
*Chairman, Broadcasting+Cable  
Hall of Fame*

Michael Malone  
*Content Director, Broadcasting+Cable,  
Multichannel News and Next TV*

Charlie Weiss  
*Co-Chair, Broadcasting+Cable Hall of Fame*

### PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

**HOSTS:** Deborah Roberts,  
Brian Custer, Mario Lopez

George Stephanopoulos  
Janice Arouh  
Bob Bakish

### SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AWARD

Philip R. Beuth  
*(presented by Spencer Christian)*

Debra OConnell

### CHAIRMAN'S AWARD

Mario J. Gabelli

Marianne Gambelli

### LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Arthur Wagner

### DINNER

### PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

#### HUMANITARIAN AWARD

Dick Vitale

Scott Herman  
Karen Dougherty Buchholz  
Valari Dobson Staab  
Douglas V. Holloway  
Steve Lanzano  
William McGorry

### CLOSING REMARKS

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**William McGorry**

Chairman

*Broadcasting+Cable Hall of Fame*

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# Debra O'Connell

and all the 2024 Hall of Fame Inductees



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# Janice Arouh

President, Network Distribution  
Allen Media Group



By Cathy Applefeld Olson  
catholson331@gmail.com  
@Cathy\_A\_Olson

**M**ost young girls who grew up watching *Bewitched* wanted to be like Samantha, a cheeky witch navigating life as a 1960s housewife.

Not Janice Arouh. Her attention was fixed on Samantha's husband, an account executive at an ad agency. "All I wanted to do was be like Darrin," she said. "I wanted to be an advertising executive and work at an agency."

After moving to L.A. to pursue agency life and working on accounts including McDonald's and PepsiCo, a friend piqued her interest in the burgeoning cable business. It was a realm she knew little about, but Arouh perhaps more than anything loves a challenge. When she interviewed at Showtime Networks, she was initially told she wasn't the right fit because she had no cable or sales experience.

"This is my fuel," Arouh said. "When someone says no, I say yes. My [career] inflection points have all had a lot to do with pivoting and change. This wasn't the path I imagined, but it was a wonderful surprise. I never looked back and, 30-plus years later, here I am."

## Pivot to Cable

She ended up getting the Showtime position. "She was in the advertising world, but she came with excellent brand and promotional experience and terrific in-cable recommendations," Dotty Ewing, Showtime's regional director of affiliate sales and marketing at the time, said. "It was our kismet, then, that I had the opportunity to hire such a bright young woman."

Arouh's next move was driving local ad sales at then-fledgling Fox Cable Networks,

“My [career] inflection points have all had a lot to do with pivoting and change. This wasn't the path I imagined but it was a wonderful surprise.”

## Janice Arouh

where she was part of the launch of FX in 1994. Her subsequent stop was Hallmark Channel, where as distribution chief she helped grow the franchise with the launch of a dedicated movie network.

In 2010, she got a call from a mutual friend about Byron Allen and his new company, then called Entertainment Studios. The entertainer-turned-entrepreneur had just launched six networks on Verizon Fios TV and was looking for an executive to helm the distribution strategy. Arouh jumped.

"At the time we had nearly zero subscribers and today we have 270 million," she said. "I can't begin to express how many times we faced what I thought at the time were insurmountable challenges. But strategically we worked through them."

Arouh forged new distribution avenues across the telco, satellite and cable arenas, and has been a principal player in Allen Media's acquisitions, including The Weather Channel, theGrio and HBCU GO. "It's wild that we have grown as quickly as we have," she said. "Even though my

primary responsibility is the distribution strategy on linear and digital platforms, having the opportunity to be with Byron, side by side, raising funds to acquire new assets, participating in the process, has been eye-awakening."

"Excellent," "gracious" and "fair" are the words Allen uses to describe Arouh. "Janice is extremely focused on increasing top-line revenue and keeping costs down," he said. "Her leadership through the years has proven to be thoughtful and strategic."

Arouh also credits her strong foundation at home with propelling her professional growth. "My husband has been my constant and raised our children together with me while I was traveling all over like a maniac," she said.

## Relationship Builder

Arouh is a consummate relationship-builder with both co-workers and clients. "Even though we have tough negotiations, we have a camaraderie," she said. "I've established long-term trusting relationships, and by having trusting relationships you're able to navigate very difficult negotiations."

Tom Montemagno, executive VP of programming acquisition at Charter Communications, concurred. "I've been across the table from Janice many times over the last 25-plus years, and as hard as each situation might have been, I always could count on Janice to be the ultimate professional who has a customer-first approach and looks to find solutions workable for both sides while avoiding unnecessary drama," he said.

What's top of mind for Arouh right now? "Accelerating our growth ... not only on the traditional side but to extend our brands and create new brands for the evolving digital marketplace," she said.

She is excited about what may be next for Allen Media Group, and for her. "I don't necessarily know what the future will bring, but I do believe there are endless possibilities and opportunities," Arouh said. "We're never bored!" ●





Janice Arouh  
President AMG Networks

**Friend  
Colleague  
Expert  
Leader**

**All of us at ALLEN MEDIA GROUP  
salute our Janice Arouh as she is inducted into the**

**BC** Broadcasting + Cable *HALL of FAME*

**And we congratulate all of tonight's honorees.**



[allenmedia.com](http://allenmedia.com)

# Bob Bakish

Former President and CEO  
Paramount Global



By Stuart Miller  
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**B**ob Bakish was on the verge of becoming a partner at prestigious consulting firm Booz Allen when his career took a surprising swerve, one that landed him in his new professional home for the next quarter-century and now in the B+C Hall of Fame.

"It wasn't a thought-out thing," the former CEO of Paramount Global said.

After studying engineering in college and later getting an MBA, Bakish started at Booz Allen working on packaged goods before taking on media projects, including consulting for Viacom.

One day, deputy chairman Tom Doolley took Bakish to breakfast to discuss Viacom's future. Bakish thought Dooley wanted a consultant but, he recalled, "He said, 'If you ever wanted to play the game on the field, instead of calling it from the sidelines, we should talk.'"

Bakish made the leap soon after and spent the next two-plus decades proving time and again that he really did belong on the playing field.

A consultant's job is to give opinions, Bakish said. "It might be controversial and might piss people off, but that doesn't matter. But when you're inside the company you have to get things done. You have to figure out how the best idea can be implemented and then get people to buy in and do it. And first, you have to build up credibility."

Bakish put his training to good use, so much so that one day an MTV business development executive said, "The thing I hate about your presentations is that by the time you get to the end I can't help

**"You have to craft the argument in a way to build support. And then you have to build the management skills to bring people along."**

## Bob Bakish

but agree with you," Bakish recalled. "I said, 'That's the point.' You have to craft the argument in a way to build support. And then you have to build the management skills to bring people along."

Bakish earned enough credibility to quickly climb the corporate ladder, gaining diverse experiences and glean- ing valuable insights along the way.

He started at Viacom in 1997 as VP of planning and development and within two years was executive VP of planning and business development for MTV Networks. He quickly rose to executive VP of operations for Viacom as well as executive VP of Viacom Enterprises.

Bakish consistently challenged the status quo, persuading his bosses during his ad-sales days to break the silos between Viacom's networks and sell pack- age deals for all of MTV Networks.

He said his most "satisfying and fun role" began in 2007 when he became president of MTV Networks International. MTVNI was an unprofitable dead zone, with the complications that come from trying to appeal to many different cultures. But what Bakish reveled in was the full plate of respon- sibilities with no one above interfering.

Bakish proved himself at MTNI with the savvy restructuring and merging of units and, again, breaking down what he saw as "a confederation of independent nations" to be run as one company. He doubled revenue, making MTVNI hugely profitable. Later, he became president and CEO of Viacom International Media Net- works, making it the company's most successful division.

## Smooth Operator

In 2016, Bakish ascended to pres- ident and CEO of Viacom, where he began a major restructuring to focus on core brands, introduce an empha- sis on new technology like apps and streaming services and replace execu- tives in nearly every unit.

"Bob has made an indelible mark on our industry," NCTA-The Internet & Television Association president and CEO Michael Powell said. "He wields his talent with good humor, kindness and equanimity."

Ray Hopkins, a fellow B+C Hall of Famer who Bakish picked as presi- dent, U.S. networks distribution at Paramount, praised his former boss as "authentic, direct and candid."

Bakish's personal touch proved crucial to rebuilding outside relation- ships and improving morale, Hopkins said. "I remember heading down from the 52nd floor with him and he'd greet everyone who got on and then he held court in the lobby," he said. "He's genuine and a good guy and made everyone feel part of the team."

Within two years, Bakish had turned the company around. He ran it until ear- lier this year, when he departed among shifting tides and internal politics.

Bakish isn't sure what's next, but he's also in no rush to find out.

"I don't want the phone ringing at 10 at night," he said. "I want time and flexibility for my family.

And then it will be time for the next chapter." ●



# CONGRATULATIONS BOB!



Paramount is proud to celebrate the induction of **Bob Bakish** into the Broadcasting+Cable Hall of Fame. We applaud all the 2024 honorees.

*Paramount*

# Philip R. Beuth

Retired  
Capital Cities/ABC



By Jerry Barmash  
jerrybarmash1@gmail.com  
@JerryBarmash

**T**hroughout his decades-long career, Philip R. Beuth was an influential figure in television news.

It all started for him after graduate school, becoming the first employee of Capital Cities Communications. He would be perfectly positioned 30 years later when the company acquired ABC.

But as early as age 4, Beuth lived with his grandfather, who ran a junkyard on Staten Island.

"That's how I learned to sell, and how to deal with people," Beuth said.

Without much savings, Beuth was planning to attend a community college on Staten Island. However, his friend connected him with Union College in Schenectady, New York, and he ultimately received a full scholarship.

"That was the best thing that ever happened to me," he said.

Beuth's relationship with the school didn't end with the degree. He spent 10 years on the board, and the Beuth House residency on the Union campus bears his name. He continues to support his alma mater with scholarships.

While at Union, he got his first full-time broadcasting gig — WRGB Albany, originally an NBC affiliate. He worked himself up the ladder from page to occasional cameraman.

Upon his graduation, the WRGB general manager asked Beuth about his future desires. "Well, I'd like to work here," Beuth recalled saying.

To have any chance for career advancement, Beuth needed a graduate degree.

“Cap Cities was more of a brotherhood than a company. It was the best in the business by a lot of measures.”

## Philip R. Beuth

His boss saw enough work ethic and versatility to enroll him at Syracuse University for a Television Management master's program paid for by owner General Electric. It was the first executive trainee class offered by WRGB.

"That was another lucky break," Beuth, who is 92, said.

It was not his last one. Upon learning that the bosses were looking to sell WRGB, veteran newscaster Lowell Thomas put together a group to buy WRBG's UHF competitor. Veteran advertising executive Thomas Murphy was hired, despite not having broadcasting experience. His staffing for the new venture was a clean slate and limitless possibilities. Beuth was loaned to Murphy. "They hired me over the phone," Beuth recalled.

He started as a \$60-a-week film editor. Ultimately, Murphy and Beuth would meet and become partners for the next 42 years. The company would become Capital Cities, based in Albany.

"Cap Cities was more of a brotherhood than a company," Beuth said. "It was the best in the business by a lot of measures."

While Cap Cities was buying up stations, it made the biggest purchase in 1985, acquiring the ABC Television Network for \$3.5

SERVICE TO THE  
COMMUNITY AWARD

billion. Beuth relocated his family from Los Angeles to New York. He ran Good Morning America for 12 years, bringing riches to himself and ABC as the morning show eclipsed NBC's venerable Today.

Beuth also was the executive in charge of specials and late night, where he attempted to get David Letterman over to ABC. "I never was successful," he said.

But Beuth did bring Bill Ritter into the fold at ABC as anchor for the newly created Good Morning America Sunday.

"Phil was a mentor, in addition to being my boss," Ritter, a longtime WABC New York anchor, said. "I was smitten with him from day one. I still am."

Beuth moved up at Cap Cities with 17 different positions, ultimately as president of the entertainment division, retiring in 1997.

## Overcoming Hurdles

He attained professional triumphs, while faced with personal setbacks, including being born with cerebral palsy.

"I haven't let it get in my way," he said.

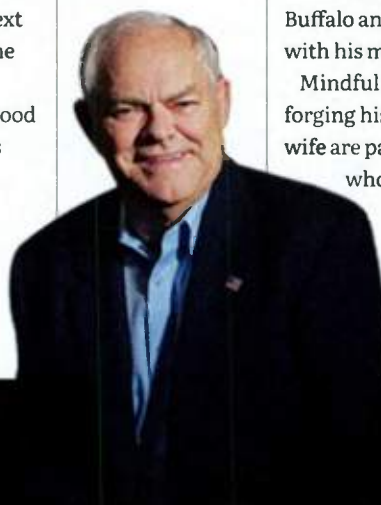
It was tough in the schoolyard, because running, and even walking, was an obstacle. Without insurance, "my mother would have to teach me how to walk," he shared.

By the time he was 11, Beuth was moving freely without the aid of a cane. However, his condition worsened with age. He has been in a wheelchair, unable to take a step for 20 years. Nonetheless, he said, "I feel like I'm 50."

Family (second wife and four children) and philanthropy are the main priorities for Beuth, who spends summers in Buffalo and winters in the Caribbean, with his main residence in Florida.

Mindful of the breaks he got toward forging his career path, Beuth and his wife are paying it forward with students who need their own break.

"We are very abundantly rewarded," Beuth said. "It feels very good to sponsor a child ... [giving] them a good start to get into college." ●



# CONGRATULATIONS

Philip R. Beuth

Former President of *Good Morning America*  
and Late-Night Entertainment, ABC/Cap Cities

William McGorry

Chairman, Broadcasting + Cable Hall of Fame,  
Former Vice President, Group Publisher, ABC/Cap Cities

AND TO ALL THOSE BEING RECOGNIZED THIS EVENING  
DURING THE BROADCASTING + CABLE  
HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY

Disney Entertainment

# Karen Dougherty Buchholz

Executive VP, Administration  
Comcast Corp.



By Nancy Lombardi  
nancy.lombardi@gmail.com

**P**olitics brought Karen Dougherty Buchholz to Philadelphia. Persistence, vision and mentorship allowed her to succeed in a city that adopted her as one of their own.

"I have a very nonlinear path," she said. "I gravitate to opportunities that have a legacy impact."

As executive VP of administration for Comcast, Dougherty Buchholz navigates an array of responsibilities, including real estate, facilities, aviation, corporate services, travel and security.

She got her start after college in Pennsylvania politics, as special assistant to Republican U.S. Sen. John Heinz from 1988-1990. She was then special assistant to state Treasurer Barbara Hafer during Hafer's 1990 gubernatorial bid.

## Becoming a Builder

Post-politics, Dougherty Buchholz launched the Pyramid Club at the Mellon Bank Center in Philadelphia for ClubCorp. She said this project helped her realize she loved the building process. Others around her recognized this passion, which led to her next role as sales executive for Comcast Spectacor to develop the Wells Fargo Center.

In 1997, then-Philadelphia Mayor Edward G. Rendell appointed Dougherty Buchholz as president of Philadelphia 2000, the organization that brought the 2000 Republican National Convention to Philadelphia.

She transferred these various skills to Comcast, moving in a completely different direction but one where she's able to build.

"I've never gone from one job to another that made sense," Dougherty Buchholz joked.

**"We all have tools in our toolbox. You take what you learned and apply it."**

## Karen Dougherty Buchholz

"We all have tools in our toolbox. You take what you learned and apply it."

Dougherty Buchholz was brought on to establish Comcast's first corporate communications infrastructure. She has led many facets of the organization and was the executive in charge of the development of the Comcast Technology Center, a \$1.5 billion, 60-story tower adjacent to Comcast's corporate headquarters, the Comcast Center. She also oversaw the development of the Comcast Center, a \$750 million, 56-story tower.

"Karen is a wonderful advocate for Comcast and Philadelphia and has made a lasting impact on both," Comcast chairman and CEO Brian Roberts said. "Since joining us more than 20 years ago, she has handled many critical roles, always bringing the same optimism and get-it-done attitude to each situation."

The best aspect of Dougherty Buchholz's role, she noted, is that each day is different. She loves working with people "who strive to continually improve the lives of those we serve," she said.

Dougherty Buchholz was quick to point out that in addition to vision and persistence, mentorship is key. "I've had the

great privilege of being mentored by leaders I long admired, and who opened doors for me in the civic and corporate worlds," she said. She cited Rendell as "a charismatic and visionary leader who can convince everyone in a room to get on board and achieve something no one else thinks is possible."

In addition, "There is no greater mentor than David L. Cohen, former Comcast senior EVP and chief diversity officer, and current U.S. ambassador to Canada," Dougherty Buchholz said. "David is a titan in the business and political worlds, whose work offers a master class in diplomacy, negotiation, transformative leadership and coalition-building."

Dougherty Buchholz embraces the responsibility of lifting the next generation of talent. As a result, she is chair of the board of directors for the Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau and is on the boards of Drexel University and The WICT Network, among other posts.

## Mentorship Minded

"Karen intentionally provides meaningful development and opportunities to early to midcareer colleagues, especially women," Comcast VP, local media development Ebonne L. Leaphart said. "Karen balances her high standards with a unique approachability and kindness that endears and empowers her mentees to remain at our company and to thrive."

Dougherty Buchholz expressed that her goals are to make a positive impact and leave a legacy. Her work has left a mark on Philadelphia through building projects, hospitality, tourism and more.

But perhaps her most important legacy is that she's the mother of two grown children. "Alexander and Julia have become two extraordinary young adults," she said.

"Their professional work ethic, service to others, and commitment to contributing to something greater than themselves make me so proud of them." ●





Comcast congratulates

# Karen Dougherty Buchholz

on her induction into the Broadcasting+Cable Hall of Fame.

Thank you to Karen and all of this year's recipients for your leadership and many contributions to advancing the media and technology industry.



# Mario J. Gabelli

Chief Investment Officer  
Gabelli Funds



By Jon Lafayette  
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@jlafayette

In 1971 a young analyst at Loeb, Rhoades & Co. named Mario J. Gabelli wrote that he was recommending broadcasters Capital Cities Communications, Cox Broadcasting, Metromedia and Taft Broadcasting to investors, despite worries about President Richard Nixon's imposition of price controls that included television advertising.

While the loss of cigarette advertising would hurt, Gabelli added, the Big Three broadcast networks would benefit from new federal rules limiting how much programming they were allowed to put on stations.

Half a century later, Gabelli is renowned as a top investor and the chairman of GAMCO (Gabelli Asset Management Co.) Investors. "He's a legendary long-term investor," Jessica Reif Ehrlich, managing director, media & entertainment U.S. equity research at BofA Securities, said.

Once upon a time, broadcasters were seen as a growth stock, but Gabelli was interested in them as a noted value inventory.

"He's a very patient investor," Reif Ehrlich said. "He hired really smart people and he's a great guy and has great relationships with companies. He's very respectful, even when he's smarter than the people he's dealing with."

Gabelli grew up in the Bronx. As a teen, he would take a bus or hitchhike to Sunningdale Country Club in Westchester County, where Jon Voight was a caddy and Voight's father was the pro.

When the other caddies were sent

“He's very respectful, even when he's smarter than the people he's dealing with.”

**Jessica Reif Erlich, Managing Director,  
Media & Entertainment U.S.,  
BofA Securities**

home, Gabelli would carry bags for guys who worked the floor at the New York Stock Exchange, who would play nine holes after the trading day ended. "I liked what they were doing, so I started buying stocks," he said. "It's not complicated."

He got a scholarship to Fordham University and earned MBAs from Fordham and Columbia University. Then he went to Wall Street.

He was at Loeb, Rhoades when its broadcast analyst left. Gabelli convinced his boss to let him take that on. He joked that he pulled a bit of a fast one because, in addition to covering broadcasters, he got to evaluate the content companies and go to Hollywood.

## From Analyst to Investor

He founded his own firm in 1977 and backed Sumner Redstone as he built Viacom and acquired Paramount Pictures and CBS, winding up the second-biggest holder of Paramount Global voting shares after the Redstone family. When Shari Redstone agreed to sell Paramount this year, Gabelli took legal action to ensure he and his clients were getting a fair price.

Gabelli remains a longtime investor in broadcasting. He was the second-largest shareholder in Media General when Soo

CHAIRMAN'S  
AWARD

Kim's Standard General looked to merge Media General with Young Broadcasting in 2013. "He was fair and he was very supportive of the way the deal came together," Kim recalled.

More recently, Gabelli was an investor in Tegna when Standard General's offer to buy it was killed by delays created by an unusually long, inconclusive FCC review. Gabelli also holds stakes in Sinclair and Gray Television. Sinclair president and CEO Chris Ripley described him as a "stalwart investor."

"Mario understands broadcast's importance to local communities, and as such has been an advocate for deregulation and the ability for broadcasters to compete against Big Tech and Big Media," Ripley added.

Gray Media chairman and CEO Hilton Howell said Gabelli has been "a valued investor" in the company for over two decades. "We appreciate his support and his team's constructive engagement with us every quarter," he noted.

Gabelli has seen TV change from a simple three-network industry to one where you can get data and content on billions of mobile devices. But he still sees value in the broadcast business. He thinks regulatory changes, like eliminating ownership caps, would "change the dynamics on the plus side."

That would start another round of consolidation, with broadcast groups being bought at premium prices. "Guys like [Nexstar CEO] Perry Sook will demonstrate how they make money and how they find synergies," he said.

Gabelli also thinks the spectrum broadcasters control is a lucrative hidden asset. "I put a value of about \$700 million on the spectrum that CBS has," he said. "Nobody talks about that."

What will separate the winners from the losers, he believes, is "which management can use the cash flow that's inherent in the business, even though it may secularly decline, to find new opportunities to enhance the residual part of the business, or to grow into new businesses." ●





GABELLI  
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Janice Arouh  
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Valari Dobson Staab  
Karen Dougherty Buchholz  
Marianne Gambelli  
Scott Herman  
Douglas V. Holloway  
Steve Lanzano  
William McGorry  
Debra O'Connell  
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*Mario J. Gabelli*

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***Mario Gabelli '65***

Chairman, Chief Executive Officer  
GAMCO Investors, Inc.

on his Induction into  
***Broadcasting + Cable's Hall of Fame***

*His invaluable insights, influence, and investments have elevated the  
industry and have left an indelible mark.*



CONGRATULATIONS  
MARIANNE GAMBELLI

**FOX congratulates Marianne Gambelli, a true pioneer, trailblazer, and innovator, on her well-deserved inauguration into the Broadcasting + Cable Hall of Fame after 40+ years of inspirational leadership.**

**FOX**



**tubi**

# Marianne Gambelli

Former President, Advertising Sales,  
Marketing & Brand Partnerships, Fox Corp.



By Paige Albiniak  
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@PaigeA

**W**hen Marianne Gambelli got her start in advertising, women were never part of teams that sold sports, beer or cars. But in her first sales job at Grey Advertising, she worked on the Miller Beer account. That was only the first of the ceilings that she burst right through.

Gambelli was later on the NBC Sports team, ending up as president of sales and marketing for NBCUniversal. She led upfronts worth several billion dollars, often setting the market in NBC's "Must-See TV" era.

Gambelli went on to spend 10 years as Horizon Media's chief investment officer, where she got an education in advanced advertising as ads moved away from Nielsen ratings and demographics and toward data-based metrics and impressions. She then brought that education to Fox, where she was president of advertising sales, marketing and brand partnerships.

"I wasn't one of those who had to be promoted," Gambelli said. "I just did the work. I felt like that work got recognized and then things happened, doors opened that weren't open before. I honestly don't feel like they had to have a female so they picked me. I felt that I earned it."

Gambelli's performance in all of her roles has certainly opened doors for other women to come through. "We grew up with heads of ad sales all being men; now they are all women," Keith Turner, who worked with Gambelli as NBC's president of ad sales, said. "She never panicked and was always able to operate effectively and lead."

That sense of confidence gave other leaders

“ Watch the relationships you have as you are growing. They are what comes back to you.”

## Marianne Gambelli

confidence in her, allowing her to both to lead as she saw fit and also influence overall corporate decisions. "Whenever we were in the room — and I was often with her in rooms that included the likes of Bob Wright, Jeff Zucker and Steve Burke — she was always a commanding presence," Ed Swindler, an independent media consultant to Fox who formerly held several executive roles at NBC, said. "She always had a point of view that they wanted to know and she was trusted. Trust is the basis for most of her success."

One of the things Gambelli learned is that "you're interviewing for the job when you don't even know you are interviewing for it." For example, she developed a tight relationship with Jeff Zucker when he was NBC's head of West Coast entertainment in 2000. When he was promoted to CEO of NBCUniversal Television group in 2005, he knew right away who would lead his ad-sales team.

"Watch

the relationships you have as you are growing. They are what comes back to you," Gambelli said.

## Relationship Builder

Cultivating strong relationships is what brought Gambelli to Fox in 2017. About a year and half prior, a mutual friend introduced her to Fox Television Stations CEO Jack Abernethy. They met for breakfast. "When we got there, I think we were both like, 'why are we here,' but we hit it off," she said. "It was probably one of the best meetings I've ever had. A year and a half later, when the head ad sales job opened, he called me."

Gambelli spent the last seven years of her career at Fox, years that she said were her favorite because "they let you run your business, but there was also lots of support." In 2020, Gambelli launched the Fox Ad Sales Diversity and Inclusion Council with the mission to build and enhance the culture of inclusivity.

"I feel the more voices you have that are different, the better off you are as a whole," she said. "You need different ways of thinking. That lets the whole team rise up."

Kristi Curcio-Nolan, VP, ad sales, strategic and business initiatives, engagement and events, office of the president, said diversity and inclusion were always a focus for Gambelli.

"She has always wanted to bring everybody up," she said. "She was always doing these things but she never needed to be in the spotlight."

Gambelli retired from Fox in January after a satisfying four-decade career. "I did things that I never thought I would do," she said. "I went to the Beijing Olympics, Wimbledon, the French Open. I had so many experiences that one person should never have in one lifetime. If I don't do anything else for the rest of my life, I will have lived well." ●



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# Scott Herman

Former Chief Operating Officer  
CBS Radio



By Larry Jaffee  
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**E**arly in Scott Herman's freshman year at Brooklyn College in 1976, the newcomer was having a rough time adapting. "I wanted to drop out," Herman remembered. "My father suggested I join a club."

Scott's first inclination was to join the school newspaper to write about sports, but "I didn't like the kids," he said, "so I didn't join."

He saw a sign for WBCR, the college radio station, which ended up giving him a weekly 45-second sportscast. It turned out to be a bit of work.

"I'd sit in that student union building for four hours to write that 45 seconds to make it perfect," said Herman, who as a kid would call New York Mets games into his tape recorder while watching on television with the sound off.

If it weren't for that pivot, broadcasting might have lost out on a beloved executive, who retired in 2017 as chief operating officer of CBS Radio, where he spent 39 years.

Herman became GM of WBCR in his junior year. His professor hosted a religion program for the all-news AM station WINS New York, at the time owned by Group W. "I was [Sister Camille's] favorite student," said Herman, who asked her for a recommendation letter. "The [WINS]

**“I'd sit in that student union building for four hours to write that 45 seconds to make it perfect.”**

**Scott Herman**

news director asked me, 'Do you know how to cut tape? Do you know news?'"

Instead of an internship, Herman received a job working Saturday mornings as a news production assistant at \$3.85 an hour in 1978. "I basically never left the company," said Herman, who ended up overseeing all operations for CBS Radio's 117 radio stations in 26 markets.

He went on to work in television as well. In 1987, he became news director of KYW Philadelphia. Earlier in his career, he held the title at its sister radio station. "I probably would have never left television if it wasn't for [former CBS Radio CEO] Dan Mason offering me in 1993 to be general manager of WINS, where I started my career," Herman said, seizing the opportunity to return to New York.

Mason recognized Herman as "an up and coming rockstar who others gravitate to by spreading confidence all over the room," Mason said.

Herman's lead-by-example style made an impression early in the career of Jennifer Donohue, now a senior VP at The Walt Disney Co.

"Scott was always the first to arrive at the office or early for a client meeting," she said, recalling meeting him in the early 2000s at CBS in New York. "Scott provided me validation that I could be myself in the industry, an Asian-American female leader."

Audacy market president Chris Oliviero noted Herman mentoring "coast to coast" radio professionals. "Most importantly, [Herman] achieved that success while maintaining compassion, decency and a genuine caring for all that crossed his path," said Oliviero, who worked with Herman at CBS Radio for almost 20 years.

At the time of his retirement seven years ago, he was leaving "an incredibly profitable" company, he said, that did \$300 million in cash flow and almost \$2 billion in billings.

"I'm very lucky that I made a great living," Herman said.

## A Life's Work of Helping

Herman had been offered a high-level executive position with Entercom (now Audacy), which bought CBS Radio from CBS Corp. (now part of Paramount Global) in 2017. "The more I thought about it the more I didn't want to do it," he said, without regrets opting for retirement and the foundation instead.

These days, Herman's "life's work," he said, is chairing the Broadcasters Foundation of America (BFA), a voluntary position he began four years ago. The foundation gives annual grants totaling \$2 million a year to several hundred industry professionals dealing with debilitating illnesses or in financial need as a result of natural disasters.

He has another two years to go in the chairman role. Herman remains a dedicated radio listener in retirement. In the car, he goes back and forth between a dozen Sirius XM and over-the-air radio stations, including WINS and WFAN.

Many years after his sportscast debuted on WBCR, Herman remains a fan of the medium. He said, "I'm still a huge consumer of sports radio." ●



*Congratulations*

# SCOTT HERMAN



*And To All Of The 2024 Inductees Into The*

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*Thank You For Your Leadership & Friendship!*

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# SCOTT HERMAN

## OUR VERY OWN RADIO GUY IS BEING INDUCTED INTO THE BROADCASTING+CABLE HALL OF FAME



Boy did he love this business, and he cherished the people he worked with and those he met along the way. All these special people contributed to his 39-year journey!

We loved watching him manage radio stations in Philadelphia, Chicago and New York, especially the legendary 1010 WINS, and we salute his time at CBS Radio Corporate.

His family is so glad that, in addition to consulting, he's got a bucket list to check off in retirement: his work with the Broadcasters Foundation of America, travel, drum lessons, stand up comedy, lowering his golf handicap, and spending much more quality family time with his kids and grandkids.

### WE LOVE YOU AND ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!

Beth, Sean, Shelly and Skylar, Jamie, TJ, Kai and Ava,  
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**CONGRATS!**



**CONGRATS!**



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# Douglas Holloway

President, Homewood Media



By R. Thomas Umstead  
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@rtumstead30

**D**ouglas Holloway has had the magic touch throughout his decades-long career, finding success on the marketing, sales and programming sides of the broadcast, cable and digital businesses while serving as an industry ambassador to help others achieve success, too.

"Douglass is a true legend in the media business and a humble leader whose vision, creativity and tenacity created and built key brands into powerhouses," Ann Carlsen, founder and CEO of executive recruiting firm Carlsen Resources, said.

Holloway's first taste of the television business came as a toddler in his hometown of Pittsburgh, as a guest on *Romper Room* in 1957. "My mom was all about making a pathway for me to have as much opportunity as possible," Holloway said. "She must have heard me say I wanted to be on *Romper Room*. I believe I was the first Black kid on the show."

Holloway would graduate from Emerson College in 1975 with a degree in mass communications and television production. He enhanced his TV aspirations with an MBA from Columbia University three years later.

"At that point, I wanted to be president of a television company in 20 years, even though I didn't know much about broadcast television and didn't know anything about cable," Holloway said. "But I had a plan and I was determined to see it through."

After a marketing stint at General Foods, Holloway joined CBS in 1980 as a strategic planner. "The executives there wanted me to focus on new tech-

“He always looked out for you and always reached out to help pull up the next person.”

**Glenn Goldsmith, Group VP of Programming, Mediacom Communications**

nologies, so I worked on a business plan for the network's entry into the [cable] business," he said.

Holloway would then take his talents to Time Inc. as national accounts manager for startup magazine *TV-Cable Week* before an opportunity arose in 1983 to create the affiliate relations department at upstart USA Network. By 1988 he would head it up. "[USA Network founder] Kay Koplovitz was looking to set up an affiliate relations group, so I took the opportunity and the rest is history," Holloway said.

After the 2004 NBCUniversal merger, Holloway would take on the roles of NBCU president, Network Distribution Partnerships and Affiliate Marketing and president of NBCUniversal's Cable Investments, where he oversaw the launches of cable networks such as Syfy.

Holloway's welcoming approach to his business dealings endeared him to his clients. "Doug is all about partnership, so he was never pushing an agenda that was not in collaboration with the agenda of his clients," Mediacom Communications group VP of programming Glenn Goldsmith said. "He always looked out for you and always reached out to help pull up the next person."

Indeed, Holloway's influence has also been felt outside the C-suites as a tireless supporter of the television industry's multicultural efforts. He played a key role developing the National Association for Multi-Ethnicity in Communications (NAMIC), and served as a mentor to executives of color looking to climb the corporate ladder.

## Clearing a Path for Others

"Doug is a real pioneer in the business, and he worked very hard to make sure people of color were taken care of in the industry," HBCU Go president Curtis Symonds said.

During his distinguished television career, Holloway racked up numerous awards and recognitions, including the NCTA's Vanguard Award for Marketing, inductions into both the Cable Hall of Fame and the Cable Pioneers and a NAMIC Lifetime Achievement Award.

In 2011, Holloway shifted gears and moved to Ion Media Networks as its president of multichannel distribution. He would later realize his entrepreneurial dreams, launching Homewood Media in 2015. The company in 2020 launched multicultural streaming services URBN-TV and UKW Media.

As for the future, Holloway has his sights set on grander aspirations. "I want to put together the largest Black-owned media and entertainment company," he said.

Those that know him believe he's capable of doing anything he sets his mind to. "Doug never stopped learning, growing and reinventing himself and his companies ... a truly rare thing these days," Carlsen said. "He's developed new streaming networks and now owns his own successful media company. He's done all of this while always remembering where he came from and appreciating all those who paved the way ahead for him." ●

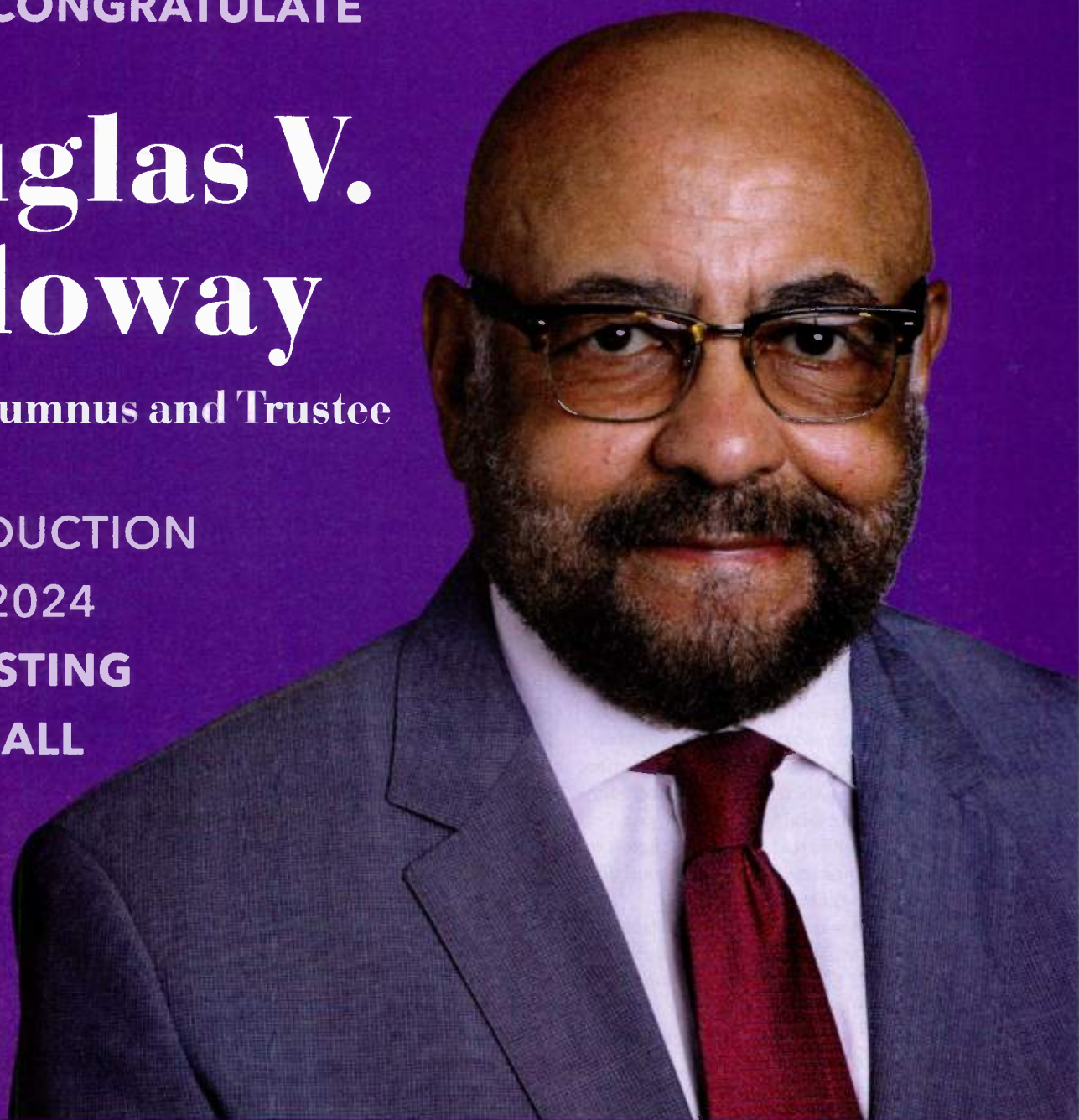


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BROADCASTING  
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# Steve Lanzano

President and CEO  
TVB



By Michael Malone  
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@BCMikeMalone

**W**ith Election Day looming, TV stations in America are in demand like never before. Steve Lanzano has been prepping for eons, gearing up partner stations to make the most of the largesse.

The spending started early, he said, and has not let up. The Television Bureau of Advertising (TVB) estimates stations will get some \$5.35 billion in political ads this year, per Ad Impact. "Political has just been ... God, it's a new record every time in terms of spending," Lanzano said.

Perhaps even more important to member stations is Lanzano's focus on the core advertising that sustains them when the political spots go away. In terms of automotive, which might represent a quarter of a station's revenue, that means frequent visits to manufacturers, whether they're in Detroit or Texas or California.

While stations battle a broadening array of streaming options for viewers' attention, Lanzano likes where he sits. "I'm still very positive about local broadcast," he said. "When I first started here 15 years ago, it was essentially just advertising as the source of revenue for the stations."

These days, he added, it's also retransmission consent, connected TV and, increasingly, ATSC 3.0. "We went from one revenue source to four," Lanzano said.

## Class Act

Lanzano grew up in Rockland County, New York, a little north of New York City. He was a student at Seton Hall University and found himself in a media planning class. "I didn't know what it was, but it seemed interesting," he said.

It inspired him to seek a career in advertising.

**“**When I first started here 15 years ago, it was essentially just advertising as the source of revenue for the stations. We went from one revenue source to four.”

## Steve Lanzano

He started with an internship at Katz Media Group his senior year, and moved to the agency side after he graduated. He mentioned Irwin Gotlieb, Beth Gordon, Mitch Burg and Charlie Rutman among those who have mentored him. "I've had great people that I've worked with what I learned from — how they work, how they think, how they manage," he said.

Lanzano was chief operating officer at MPG North America when he got a call about the TVB post. He said colleagues warned him that local broadcast was not a growth industry. "I told them I have a very different view of it," he said. "I think the business is actually vital and has a unique position in people's viewing in the media world, and it's going to continue to grow."

Lanzano started at TVB in December 2009. He shared about coming home after his first day. "My wife said, you look like a different person," he said. "You look excited.

You look like you're having fun."

Nearly 15 years later, he still is. Signs around his Manhattan office feature "Lanzanoisms," such as "It Is What It Is" and "Life's Too Short," reminding him not to get bogged down in the small stuff.

"You can't work with Steve and have him not know what's going on in your life," VAB president and CEO Sean Cunningham said. "It's just part of his style. He's so personable and cares about your family, and wants to know what's important to you."

## What's Working? What's Not?

Representing 850 stations, the TVB breaks the year into thirds. The first third sees Lanzano and his colleagues on the road, going to conferences. The middle features the virtual sales conference (TVB Forward happened September 19), which counts 5,000 registrants. The final third sees planning for the new year. "What are our priorities next year?" Lanzano said. "What are we doing that works? What are we doing that's not working? What should we be doing? That's how our year works."

Abby Auerbach, TVB executive VP and chief communications officer, has known Lanzano since they were in the same media training program at Ogilvy back in 1983. She called him "a spectacular advocate" for local television.

"Steve believes in the value of localism and really gets it — the power of broadcast television to reach and persuade people," she said.

When he's not working, Lanzano unwinds with his family, which includes a half-dozen grandkids who live within a few minutes of his home in New Jersey.

"We have the pool, so everybody's over for Papa barbecues," he said. "And the kids know they can get away with murder."

When the weekend ends, it's back to work, hustling on behalf of the TVB's partner stations. Lanzano relishes the opportunity. "I've learned a lot and I'm still learning every day," he said. "The key is to learn something new every day, and have the humility to change." ●





# Congratulations Steve!



Your unwavering visionary leadership has inspired us all and shaped the future of local broadcast television.

We're proud to have been part of your incredible journey.



## Bravo!

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**TVB70** ANNIVERSARY  
Local Media Marketing Solutions

# William McGorry

Chairman, 'B+C' Hall of Fame



By Paige Albiniak  
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@PaigeA

Coming up in the cable industry's heyday, B+C Hall of Fame chairman William McGorry built his career in publishing the old-fashioned way: strong handshakes, stories of family, drinks after dinner and being there for his colleagues.

An Irishman and a New Yorker through and through, McGorry grew up in Queens. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps, where he won a marksmanship award, and married his wife, Phyllis, at 21. The McGorrys had six children — one son, Tim, and five daughters, Pam, Jenny, Amy, Sarah and Regan. ("No one ever explained it to me," McGorry joked. "I was Irish and I was Catholic.") Phyllis wrote for the New York Daily News for some years and all of the kids worked in media at different points in their careers, a point of pride for McGorry.

McGorry's first publishing job was with Mart Magazine, a consumer electronics trade that took advantage of McGorry's earlier work at General Motors. He was hired as an account executive in 1981 but was quickly made publisher.

His first job in media came when Mart was being sold to Gordon Publications and McGorry jumped to Broadcast Management Engineering (BME) magazine in 1984. He stayed there for three years before that magazine was sold — to Norman Lear-owned Act 3 — and McGorry jumped again, this time to oversee two cable trade magazines that were published out of Denver: bimonthly Cablevision and monthly Communication Engineering Design (CED) magazine. In 1987, McGorry was personally

welcomed to the group by cable legend Bill Daniels, who was a major cable broker and owner of cable systems and sports teams in his day. "Our industry needs these magazines," McGorry said Daniels, who passed away in 2000 at age 79, told him. "It's important to have two or three voices, we can't have a single voice. I want you to do what it takes. This is a mission."

McGorry took Daniels seriously, and the group took off. "That was a great growth period that went on for about four years," he said.

McGorry made two key hires at that time: Joel Berger, who had been publisher of Channels Magazine, and Marianne Paskowski, hired as editorial director. About three years into the group's run, Berger told McGorry that he had contracted AIDS and didn't have long to live.

Working with industry group Cable Positive, which ran from 1992 to 2009, McGorry and others created the Joel Berger Award. The honor was handed out every year, and eventually to McGorry. "That was a major moment in my career, one that was important to me both personally and professionally," he said.

In 1991, Cablevision and CED were sold to Fairchild Publications, part of Capital Cities/ABC. That deal brought with it weekly Multichannel News, creating a small cable trade publishing group for McGorry to oversee. The group later launched two more publications, Wireless Week and Multichannel News International.

Disney acquired Cap Cities/ABC in 1996 and one year later, sold the cable magazines to Cahnners, which brought Broadcasting magazine to the group. Broadcasting, which began

in 1931, was considered to be the voice of the broadcasting industry. Cahnners launched the Broadcasting Hall of Fame in 1991 and renamed the magazine Broadcasting & Cable in 1993. Unbeknownst to McGorry, the Hall of Fame would become one of his lasting legacies.

McGorry's leadership was such that he won over even those who were skeptical.

"After corporate shuffled me and Broadcasting & Cable into McGorry's group, I was wary," Harry Jessell, former editor of B+C and founder and editor at large at TVNewsCheck, said. "I figured that as the newcomer we would not get the same care and feeding his other magazines did. But Bill quickly allayed my concerns. He embraced the magazine, respected its long traditions and gave me his support, even though I know I stretched his patience at times. As a boss, he was like a good baseball manager — affable, stoic and savvy. He kept the clubhouse loose, gave a good pep talk and, when the game was on the line, made the right calls."

## Helming the Hall of Fame

McGorry retired from overseeing the publishing group in 2007, but remained chairman of the Hall of Fame. He held that position until this year, which will be his last as chair. One of the things he's most proud of over his nearly two decades of overseeing the Hall of Fame is its increased focus on inducting women and people of color.

"That was a natural evolution of the business, but we were always mindful that they needed and deserved a presence in the Hall of Fame," McGorry said.

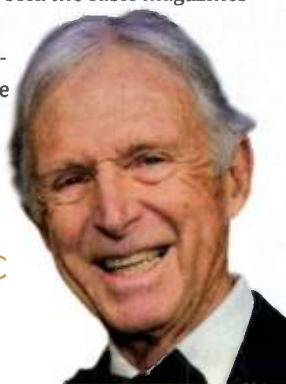
Throughout the years, the B+C Hall of Fame has inducted many of the media industry's finest talent and executives, including Lucille Ball, Emily Barr, Michael J. Fox, Gayle King, Hoda Kotb, Kelly Ripa, Judge Judy Sheindlin, Alex Trebek, Oprah Winfrey and so many more.

This year McGorry himself will be inducted into the organization he so carefully tended for almost two decades.

Said Dennis Wharton, former executive VP of communications at the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB), who helped McGorry wrangle many a broadcaster over the years, "He's like a fine Irish whiskey, he ages very well." ●

“As a boss, he was like a good baseball manager — affable, stoic and savvy.”

Harry Jessell, Former Editor, 'B+C'





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Your leadership and commitment to excellence  
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# Debra OConnell

President, News Group and Networks,  
Disney Entertainment



By Paige Albiniak  
palbiniak@gmail.com  
@PaigeA

**W**hen Debra OConnell was named president, news group and networks, at Disney Entertainment in February, it aligned two of The Walt Disney Co.'s key verticals: news and TV stations. Also in her purview are ABC, Disney Channels, FX Networks, Freeform and National Geographic Channels. It's only been six months, but OConnell already has made her mark as she integrates the work of ABC's owned-and-operated stations in markets such as New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and Philadelphia with that of ABC News.

"Everything starts as a local story," OConnell said. "News always happens in a community, whether that's inclement weather or politics. Each particular story has local roots and often national relevance."

Although she oversees a broad portfolio, OConnell got her start in local media, working as an account executive at WABC New York radio and then television. From the very beginning, her leadership potential was clear, said those who knew her when.

"It was obvious from when I first met her that she had very strong management and leadership skills and was destined for a significant career," George Bodenheimer, retired co-chair, Disney Media Networks and executive chairman, ESPN, said. "She thought very broadly and was always a citizen of The Walt Disney Company. She always looked for win-win partnerships."

It was OConnell's initiative that led to the acquisition of broadcast rights for the New York City Marathon for both WABC and ESPN, according to Bodenheimer. "That doesn't happen without Debra

“There is never any doubt about where Debra stands. It is always about the quality of the work, and about our viewers.”

**David Muir, anchor, ABC  
'World News Tonight'**

bringing the sides together," he said.

In 2018, she became general manager and president of WABC New York, where she oversaw *Live With Kelly and Ryan*'s rise to become syndication's top talk show for the first time in its long history. In November 2020, OConnell was promoted to president, networks at Disney Media Entertainment & Distribution, a job she performed concurrently with running WABC until March 2021. Three years later, she was named to her current role.

All of that time spent working with ABC's TV stations on both the local and national level has given OConnell insight into the group's journalism, whether it's practiced on the hyper-local level at Localish, in a major city like New York or L.A. or on the national stage.

"Debra has long been a champion of fair and steady journalism leading our ABC stations across the country, and in these past few months, she has brought both her unwavering support and her drive to the network news division," ABC World News Tonight anchor David Muir said in an email. "There is never any doubt about where Debra stands. It is always about the quality of the work, and about our viewers."

While she now oversees many networks, she still pays constant attention to the product, her colleagues said. "What I admire about Debra is at the end of the day she is a viewer, too," Muir continued. "She is the first to send a text message about a story, or a moment during the broadcast that moved her and anyone who knows her will tell you she is dialed in 24 hours a day. We're not quite sure where the energy comes from, but we're grateful to witness it, benefit from it, and marvel at it. I'm sure there is another text message coming soon."

## Understands All Facets

Along the way, she also acquired a thorough understanding of how the business operates in all corners. "She's an incredibly tireless worker and she's incredibly versatile in terms of her understanding of the business," Chuck Saftler, head of acquisitions, Disney Networks, said. "She's got a broad understanding of the business, news and creative."

OConnell also knows how to do a deal, having worked closely with Saftler and other Disney executives on ABC's renewal of syndicated powerhouses *Wheel of Fortune* and *Jeopardy!* in January 2023 through the 2027-28 TV season. "She's a really smart, fair, tough negotiator," Saftler said.

It's been a challenging couple of years in the entertainment industry as streaming upends the entire ecosystem, but OConnell is bullish on the broadcasting that brought her here.

"Broadcast is a very bright spot," she said. "Broadcast is available anywhere and everywhere, while viewers have the opportunity to catch up on Hulu and Disney Plus. You have all of that as well as the fact that broadcast is so embedded in and important to communities." ●





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# VALARI DOBSON STAAB

*Chairman, NBCUniversal Local*

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# Valari Dobson Staab

Chairman

NBCUniversal Local



By Michael Malone  
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@BCMikMalone

Growing up in Angelina National Forest in rural Texas, where her parents owned a lakeside marina and campground, Valari

Dobson Staab never thought about working in television. She barely even thought of watching television.

"We only got reception occasionally, usually because some weird storm was surfacing," she said. "TV was not a big part of my life, and it was not something I planned on doing at all."

Dobson Staab is fully immersed in the medium today. She oversees 12 NBC-owned stations and 31 more on the Telemundo side, along with multicast networks, regional sports networks and a couple of production outfits.

Having both English- and Spanish-language stations sets the NBCUniversal Local group apart, she noted. "We have these newsrooms that collect and produce news and information in English and Spanish, and it's only one newsroom, which gives us more journalists in our markets than our competitors," she said. "And it sets us up uniquely success-wise because we're going after two different markets in terms of ratings and revenue."

Broadcast TV is challenged to stand out amid the streaming networks, but Dobson Staab said the stations she oversees are in a strong place. The Paris Summer Olympics was "crazy good," she shared. "Ratings were incredible, much better than expected, and revenue was through the roof."

The Games are over, but she sees

“The one thing we do that the internet has not been able to do is the gathering of local news. It’s just an expensive proposition that takes boots on the ground.”

## Valari Dobson Staab

positive stories in a number of markets. She mentioned key newscasts picking up momentum at KVEA Los Angeles, WNBC New York and WBTS Boston. "Overall, it's a really good group," she said, "and they constantly make me proud of their breaking news coverage, especially weather."

Kevin Keeshan, NBCUniversal Local executive VP of news editorial, said Dobson Staab has made investigative reporting a vital element of the group, with Respond units hustling on consumers' behalf at the Telemundo outlets. "The Spanish speaker had been underresourced, and the Telemundo stations have performed an incredibly important public service when they have consumer issues," he said, noting how Respond has recovered over \$80 million since it launched a decade ago.

The streamers may offer a vast quantity of high-gloss entertainment, but TV stations supply something more unique. "The one thing we do that the internet has not been able to do is the gathering of local news," Dobson Staab said. "It's just an expensive proposition that takes boots on the ground."



She raves about the group's FAST channels — how they've been adding news, getting substantial viewership and turning that into real revenue.

It helps that NBCU Local staffers always get a clear message from the group chief. "Valari speaks clearly and directly, knows how to articulate a vision, knows how to get everybody on board, and then lets us go do our jobs," said Therese Gamba, NBCUniversal Local chief marketing officer and executive VP, acquired programming. "That kind of leadership allows people to take ownership of their jobs, feeling, 'I am part of this organization, and what I do matters.'"

## 'Very Basic Starter Job'

It was at KLTU in Tyler, Texas, where Dobson Staab started. She was paying her way through college and took a "very basic starter job" in the commercial traffic department, which fit with her classes and paid a bit better than other options. The general manager, Frank Melton, ended up a mentor. He was a rarity — a Black GM who was just 28 years old.

He encouraged his staffers to be creative, and Dobson Staab took him to heart. "He showed me how you could create this really fun, great environment that does a lot of good in the community," she said. "And you are inspired because you like your job, and because you're doing good for the community."

Dobson Staab is an avid mentor as well, willing to meet with most any aspiring staffer. Her executive assistants do that job for two years, then enter the trainee program that best suits them.

Dobson Staab unwinds on weekends at the shore with her husband, R.C., her dog Skye and her kayak. "Since I grew up on a marina, I'm still very water-oriented," she said.

Unwinding is necessary for an executive running a dynamic station group amidst a transforming TV universe. "You always have to be looking ahead," she said, "and you also have to be ready to pivot." ●



**Congratulations to our leader**

NBCUniversal Local Chairman

**Valari Staab**

On her well-deserved induction into the  
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# George Stephanopoulos

Co-Anchor of 'Good Morning America';  
Anchor of 'This Week,' **ABC News**



By Jon Lafayette  
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@jlafayette

**L**ong before becoming executive producer of *Good Morning America*, Simone Swink was an intern at ABC's *This Week*. On Sundays, she would deliver newspapers to George Stephanopoulos, who had recently left the White House and was a contributor to the show.

"He was always very polite, very courteous and he knew every single person's name in our office, from the interns to the researchers," Swink recalled.

He gave everyone Barnes & Noble gift cards, too. "He was a big reader and he gave others the gift of reading," she added.

Twelve years later, Swink rejoined ABC News as a writer on GMA and was introduced to Stephanopoulos on the set.

"He said, didn't we used to work together?" she recalled. "And I didn't say anything. You could have knocked me over, I was so surprised."

Stephanopoulos had expected to follow his father and grandfather into the priesthood. He was a sportscaster at the Columbia University radio station and, while a Rhodes Scholar, did some reporting for the *Christian Science Monitor* and CBS.

After he came back from Oxford University, he applied for a job at ABC's *Nightline* but didn't get it. He'd caught the political bug, went to work in Washington and wound up as a senior adviser in President Bill Clinton's White House.

Former ABC News president David Westin read Stephanopoulos' book *All Too Human: A Political Education*. Westin was impressed and asked him to lunch at ABC.

"If you decided you wanted to go into news full-time, I think you can have a really great career here," Westin recalled telling Steph-

**"I had to show it in my work and prove I could be a fair and objective journalist. That's what I've tried to do."**

## George Stephanopoulos

nopoulos. "And he, to my surprise, actually said, 'David, that's exactly what I was thinking about doing.'"

Westin warned Stephanopoulos that he'd have to go back to square one and learn the craft of broadcast journalism. "And he said, 'No, I'm up for that.' And that's just exactly what he did," Westin said. "He has a discipline to him that is truly remarkable."

There were many who thought that a political operative didn't belong at ABC News. "Peter Jennings called me and said: 'This was a mistake. You shouldn't do this. This man is not a journalist,'" Westin said.

Stephanopoulos wound up working with Jennings on stories for *World News Tonight*. "And to Peter's great credit he called me back a few months later and said: 'David you were right. I was wrong,'" Westin said. "He's one of the best reporters we've got. He'll go out and get sources and report back in the evening and he's better than a lot of our career reporters here."

Stephanopoulos said he knew he had to prove himself at ABC News. "I had conversations with Ted Koppel and Charlie Gibson and Peter Jennings," he said. "But I also knew that conversations alone wouldn't assuage all the concerns. I had to show it in my work and prove I could be a fair and objective journalist. That's what I've tried to do."

Stephanopoulos was hosting *This Week* when Westin asked him to host GMA. He turned it down three times.

"I had a young family in D.C., and I'd been steeped in politics and political news and doing the Sunday show," Stephanopoulos recalled. "I didn't think it was necessarily a natural fit. But David had confidence in me and he was right and I was wrong. I just love the fact that every morning you've got an entire audience who are waiting to start their day with you. It's a great privilege."

## In the Center of It All

Over the years he's covered giant stories, from 9/11 to the Capitol attack on January 6. "The interview I did with President [Joe] Biden [July 5, following his debate with former President Donald Trump] was probably the highest stakes interview of my career," he said. After that interview, Biden decided not to seek reelection.

Stephanopoulos has had less than serious moments, too. He trained for a race up the Empire State Building against Olympian Apolo Ohno. "I was proud that I did as well against Apolo as I did — he gave me a good head start," he said. But he resists — sometimes successfully, sometimes not — the annual push to wear a costume for the Halloween show.

Stephanopoulos may be more likely to show off his sense of humor at home, with his wife, comedian Ali Wentworth, and their two daughters. Elliott Anastasia Stephanopoulos has been a production assistant at GMA, but Dad isn't pushing the girls into a job on TV.

"I just want them to follow their dreams," Stephanopoulos said. ●



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FROM

**abc** NEWS



**abc** *this*  
*week*  
WITH  
GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS



# Dick Vitale

College Basketball Analyst  
ESPN



By R. Thomas Umstead  
thomas.umstead@futurenet.com  
@rtumstead30

**E**SPN chairman Jimmy Pitaro stepped to the microphone at May's Dick Vitale Gala in Sarasota with the task of introducing the broadcaster, coach, teacher and humanitarian. Pitaro could have run off a litany of accolades for Vitale, including a decorated six-decade career as the unmistakable voice of ESPN's college basketball coverage. Instead, he set the stage for Vitale's entrance, which raised more than \$24 million for pediatric cancer research, by summing up what Vitale's presence and voice — even in its silence from announcing games in 2024 due to a series of throat procedures as he battles cancer — has meant to millions of fans.

"As wonderful as he is on air, Dick Vitale the humanitarian is even more impressive," Pitaro said. "Despite his frustrations with not being able to work on TV, he never stopped working on behalf of humanity. That's the essence of Dick Vitale."

Vitale is best known for his enthusiastic approach to broadcasting in general and college basketball in particular. He started as a teacher and basketball coach at a New Jersey school following his graduation from Seton Hall University in 1962. He would then take the reins of the men's basketball team at his alma mater, East Rutherford (N.J.) High School, in 1964 where, over a seven-year period, Vitale earned four state sectional and two state championships.

After a stint as an assistant coach at

“Despite his frustrations with not being able to work on TV, he never stopped working on behalf of humanity. That's the essence of Dick Vitale.”

**Jimmy Pitaro, Chairman, ESPN**

Rutgers, he was named head coach at the University of Detroit in 1973. He would lead the Titans to a better than .700 winning percentage over five years, including an NCAA tournament appearance in 1976-77.

As a student at Michigan during that time, sports analyst Lee Berke was first smitten with Vitale's passion for college basketball when the coach boisterously called for a match between the Titans and the Wolverines on a local radio station. "He was screaming at the top of his lungs about how the University of Detroit is a top contender and should be playing the University of Michigan," Berke recalled. "He had all the passion and fire that Dick Vitale is known for. He's been very consistent and energetic ever since then and remains a terrific communicator."

That passion led him to the NBA, as coach of the Detroit Pistons in 1978-79. He would find greater success with his next gig at then-fledgling ESPN.

Vitale joined ESPN as an announcer months after the network's launch, calling the network's first-ever major NCAA basketball game. That Wisconsin-DePaul contest was one of more

than 1,000 games Vitale would announce across six decades.

"In 1979, when Magic [Johnson] and Larry Bird really started what we know today as March Madness, that was the first year Dick Vitale called a game," Tennessee Volunteers head coach Rick Barnes said during the gala. "Since that time, he has been the voice of college basketball. He's taken our game to a level to where it's as good as any game that we have."

Vitale's catchy phrases have become known as Vitale-isms, including "Awesome Baby," "Diaper Dandy," referring to a freshman phenom, and "All-Windex Performer," describing an aggressive rebounder.

His approach to broadcasting has earned induction into the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame, the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and the National Sportscasters Hall of Fame.

## Renowned Beyond Sports

Non-sports fans may know Vitale from his television and movie appearances over the decades, including *The Naked Gun: From The Files of Police Squad!*, *He Got Game*, *Love and Basketball* and *The Cosby Show*.

Vitale is becoming as well-known for philanthropy as for basketball. Along with the Dick Vitale Gala fundraiser, he sits on the board of The V Foundation, founded by Vitale's late friend, former North Carolina State basketball coach and ESPN broadcaster Jim Valvano, to raise money for cancer research.

Vitale reflected on his six-decade career by saying that he continues to enjoy calling college basketball while always looking for opportunities to give back to those less fortunate.

"My career has absolutely exceeded all of my dreams," he said. "To make a living doing something you love is special. I feel very blessed and I would simply say it is 'Awesome Baby' with a capital A!" ●

HUMANITARIAN  
AWARD

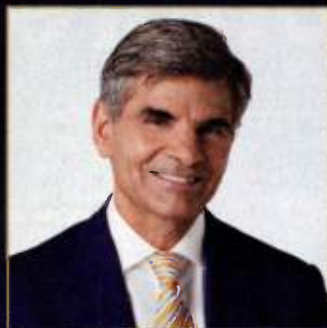


# CONGRATULATIONS



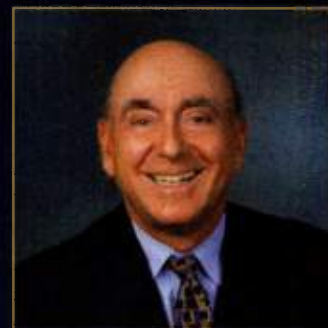
Debra O'Connell  
President,  
News Group and Networks

**Disney** Entertainment



George Stephanopoulos  
Co-Ancor, "Good Morning America"  
Anchor, "This Week with George Stephanopoulos"

**abc** NEWS



Dick Vitale  
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# Arthur Wagner

Executive Chairman of the Board  
& Co-Founder, **Active International**



By Michael Malone  
michael.malone@futurenet.com  
@BCMikMalone

**W**ell before Active International grew into a 600-person organization driving the media barter space, it was founder Arthur Wagner, struggling to make a buck. He had an office in Manhattan, standout sales skills and not much more.

"I didn't draw a salary for two years," he said. "I didn't have expense money. If you weren't in New York, I couldn't see you."

The media barter world was filled with shady operators when Active launched 40 years ago, Wagner shared, and clients liked that the new player played it straight.

"They became more than happy clients," he said. "They became advocates, and they started to go and tell their friends, 'Hey, if you need something like this done, this is the only place to do it.'"

## Brooklyn Born

Wagner grew up in Brooklyn, went to Tilden High School, and did not attend college, outside of a half semester at Brooklyn College. He picked up odd jobs where he could, including selling household appliances and hearing aids.

"I went out and I worked," he said, "and it took me quite a while to be able to make a living."

Wagner eventually found career-oriented work at a television rep firm, Kaiser Broadcasting, and learned the nuances of selling TV ad time. But he yearned to run his own business. After a decade at Kaiser, he founded Active.

He had experience in ad sales. He had contacts in television. He had a gift for numbers, as noted by most everyone who has worked with Wagner.

“Arthur really is a salesman, an absolute sales guy, at heart. He lives and breathes sales and his passion and aptitude for sales is exceptional.”

**Dean Wilson, Global COO,  
Active International**

He even had a rent-free office. Wagner's wife's family was a "big deal in the music business," he said, and they gave him an some space.

Wagner built his client base one by one, and Active International, which invests in media assets today to secure media properties below market value in the future, began to take off.

Jack Myers got to know Wagner when he took a job as a U.S. sales representative for a group of Canadian TV stations and Active International helped sell the stations' media. He described Wagner as a mentor and an "incredible ally."

"Arthur consistently demonstrates a visionary approach," Myers said. "He has always stayed ahead of industry trends and built innovative strategies that in many ways redefined what barter was. He has navigated really complex business challenges with creative solutions that work for the benefit of everyone."

One strategy that redefined media barter is the trade credit that many said Wagner established for the industry. "Arthur created the currency for that," Active International president and CEO Bill Georges said.

Wagner always brings stellar sales skills to

a negotiation, his colleagues shared. "Arthur really is a salesman, an absolute sales guy at heart," said Dean Wilson, global chief operating officer, Active International. "He lives and breathes sales and his passion and aptitude for sales is exceptional."

Forty years after it launched, Active International has offices in Pearl River, New York; London; Paris; Dusseldorf; Madrid; Milan; Sydney; and other locales around the world. In Wagner's Pearl River office, a Standard Directory of Advertisers dated to 1984 sits on a desk and reminds the founder of the company's launch.

The company's hundreds of employees are like family to Wagner. "Arthur is incredibly loyal, and very family oriented," said Georges. "Not only immediate family, but Active family — it's clear how much he cares about both."

Immediate family includes his wife Ellen, and children Irv and Dara, with both kids still at Active after long stints.

## All In

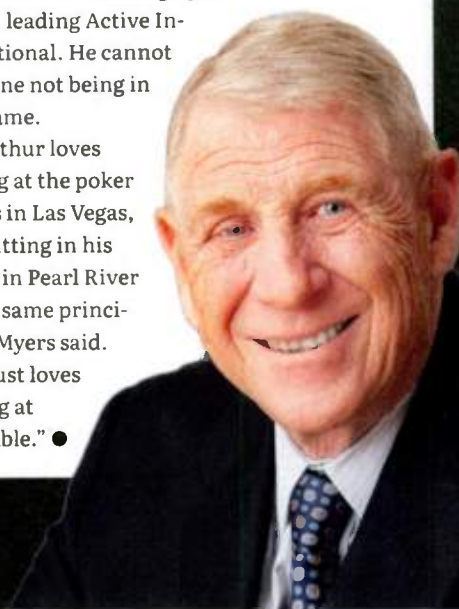
Wagner splits his time between homes in New City, New York, north of New York City, and Boca Raton. At age 84, his golf days are sadly over, but he remains an active poker player, where his knack for numbers serves him well — as do Wagner's people skills.

"Odds never take an off day, but people do," he said. "People have good days, people have bad days. You can study them, you can play the people rather than your cards."

People may indeed take a day off, but Wagner is still turning up at work, leading Active International. He cannot imagine not being in the game.

"Arthur loves sitting at the poker tables in Las Vegas, and sitting in his office in Pearl River is the same principle," Myers said.

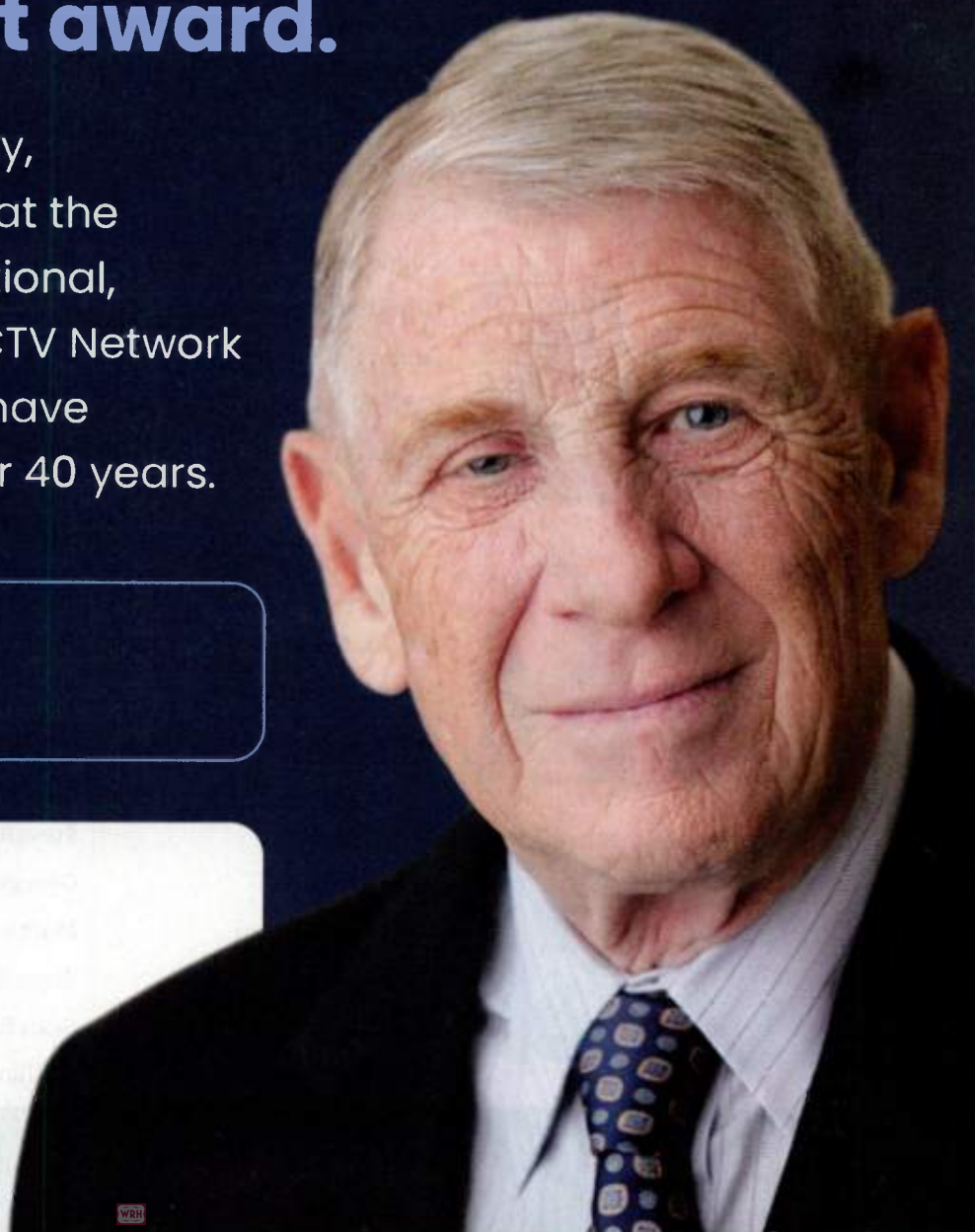
"He just loves sitting at the table." ●





# **A heartfelt congratulations, Arthur Wagner, on your Broadcasting+Cable Hall of Fame induction and lifetime achievement award.**

Your unwavering integrity,  
leadership, and belief that the  
people of Active International,  
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are the greatest assets have  
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RAY



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Sean R.H. Bratches  
William J. Bresnan

David Brinkley  
Glenn A. Britt  
Tom Brokaw  
Don Browne  
Del Bryant

**Karen Dougherty  
Buchholz**

Dean Burch  
Brandon Burgess  
Dan Burke  
Stephen Burke  
Mark Burnett  
George Burns  
Raymond Burr  
Eduardo Caballero  
Sid Caesar  
Louis G. Caldwell  
Ed Carroll  
Marcy Carsey  
Johnny Carson  
Bill Cella  
John Chancellor  
Peter Chernin  
Dick Clark  
Imogene Coca  
Fred Coe  
Betty Cohen  
Ray Cole  
Charlie Collier  
Joseph Collins  
Frank Comerford  
Rocco Commisso  
Cesar Conde  
Frank Conrad  
William Conrad

Bob Cook  
Joan Ganz Cooney  
Carole Cooper  
Don Cornelius  
Howard Cosell  
Katie Couric  
Walter Cronkite  
Bing Crosby  
Bill Daniels  
Susanne Daniels  
Philippe Dauman  
Nicholas Davatzes  
Lee de Forest  
John DeWitt  
Brian Deevy  
Jean Dietze  
Barry Diller  
Charles Dolan  
Phil Donahue  
Sam Donaldson  
James Dowdle  
Hugh Downs  
Allen B. DuMont  
Channing Dungey  
Peter Dunn  
Jimmy Durante  
Dick Ebersol  
Michael D. Eisner  
Alan Elkin  
Patrick Esser  
Randy Falco  
Jon Feltheimer  
John Fetzer  
Michael Fiorile

Joseph A. Flaherty  
Michael J. Fox  
Brian France  
Arlene Francis  
Alan W. Frank  
Tom Freston  
Harry Friedman  
Robert Friedman  
Fred Friendly  
Michael T. Fries  
Edward O. Fritts  
Michael Fuchs  
**Mario J. Gabelli**  
Monica Gadsby  
**Marianne Gambelli**  
John Gambling  
Don Garber  
Chris Geraci  
Charles Gibson  
Frank Gifford  
Kathie Lee Gifford  
Jackie Gleason  
Arthur Godfrey  
Gary David Goldberg  
Leonard Goldenson  
Peter Goldmark  
Mark Goodson  
Bill Goodwyn  
Ed Goren  
Irwin Gotlieb  
Katharine Graham  
Kelsey Grammer  
Herb A. Granath  
Peggy Green

Robert Greenblatt  
Merv Griffin  
Ralph Guild  
Savannah Guthrie  
Bonnie Hammer  
Ted Harbert  
Jack Harris  
Mary Hart  
Eddy Hartenstein  
Paul Harvey  
Carl Haverlin  
Gabriel Heatter  
Andrew T. Heller  
John Hendricks  
Ragan Henry  
Jim Henson  
**Scott Herman**  
Doug Herzog  
Don Hewitt  
John M. Higgins  
Landel C. Hobbs  
Ben Hoberman  
**Douglas V. Holloway**  
C.E. Hooper  
Bob Hope  
Ray Hopkins  
Amos Hostetter  
Harold Hough  
Stanley E. Hubbard  
Stanley S. Hubbard  
Ward L. Huey, Jr.  
Catherine Hughes  
Chet Huntley  
Robert Hyland



HAMMER



FELTHEIMER



JENNINGS



LEE



CRONKITE



LEAR



BOND



SERLING



POWELL



WINFREY



PARSONS



BEASLEY



ABRUZZESE



THOMPSON



WHITE



LUCAS



VINCIQUERRA



ESSER



YACCARINO



NANTZ

# BC Broadcasting + Cable **HALLOfFAME** HONOR ROLL

(2024 RECIPIENTS ARE NOTED IN GOLD)

Pearlena Igbokwe  
Robert A. Iger  
Don Imus  
Hal Jackson  
Peter Jennings  
Bob Johnson  
Johnson & Johnson  
Glenn Jones  
Raymond E. Joslin  
Tom Joyner  
H.V. Kaltenborn  
Mel Karmazin  
Paul Karpowicz  
Casey Kasem  
Gene Katz  
David E. Kelley  
Jerald L. Kent  
Phil Kent  
Robert Kennedy  
Gayle King  
Larry King  
Michael King  
Roger King  
Robert E. Kintner  
John Kluge  
Bill Koenigsberg  
Kay Koplovitz  
Ted Koppel  
Hoda Kotb

Ernie Kovacs  
Robert K. Kraft  
Mario Kreutzberger ("Don Francisco")  
Charles Kuralt  
Michael L. LaJoie  
Brian Lamb  
Michael Landon  
John Landgraf  
**Steve Lanzano**  
Lou LaTorre  
Matt Lauer  
Geraldine Laybourne  
Mark Lazarus  
Norman Lear  
Debra Lee  
Jerry Lee  
Terry Lee  
Richard Leibner  
Bill Leonard  
Sheldon Leonard  
Gerald Levin  
David Levy  
Fulton Lewis Jr.  
Shari Lewis  
Alfred C. Liggins III  
Peter Liguori  
Philip J. Lombardo  
Phillips H. Lord

Dave Lougee  
Ken Lowe  
Wonya Lucas  
Susan Lucci  
Peter Lund  
Leo MacCourtney  
Greg Maffei  
Frank Magid  
Robert Magness  
Martin Malarkey  
John Malone  
Nancy Marchand  
Guglielmo Marconi  
Mort Marcus  
E.G. Marshall  
Garry Marshall  
Dean Martin  
Al Masini  
Dan Mason  
L. Lowry Mays  
Deborah McDermott  
Don McGannon  
**Willam McGorry**  
Judy McGrath  
Dr. Phil McGraw  
Judith McHale  
Gordon McLendon  
Sean McManus  
Paul McTear  
Greg Meidel  
Lorne Michaels  
Robert Miron  
Steve Miron  
Pat Mitchell

Courteney Monroe

Leslie Moonves

Mary Tyler Moore

Akio Morita

Bruce Morrow

Steve Mosko

Tom Murphy

Edward R. Murrow

John S. Muszynski

Jim Nantz

Jon Nesvig

David Nevins

Sheila Nevins

Gary Newman

Agnes Nixon

Deborah Norville

Armando Nuñez

Soledad O'Brien

**Debra O'Connell**

Carroll O'Connor

Mike O'Neill

Charles Osgood

William S. Paley

Chuck Pagano

Harry Pappas

Dick Parsons

Dennis Patrick

Jane Pauley

Lowell Paxson

Mark Pedowitz

Edward Petry

Regis Philbin

Irna Phillips

Robert W. Pittman

Richard L. Plepler

David F. Poltrack

Tony Ponturo

Michael Powell

Frances Preston

Procter &amp; Gamble

William Lowell Putnam

Ward Quaal

James H. Quello

Gilda Radner

Jorge Ramos

Dan Rather

Abbe Raven

Rachael Ray

Gene Rayburn

Ronald Reagan

Sumner Redstone

Kevin Reilly

J. Leonard Reinsch

John Rigas

Kelly Ripa

James O. Robbins

Brian Roberts

Cokie Roberts

Deborah Roberts

Ralph Roberts

Robin Roberts

Dick Robertson

Gene Roddenberry

Johnathan Rodgers

Fred Rogers

Tom Rogers

Al Roker

Rick Rosen

Robert Rosencrans

Bob Ross

Jo Ann Ross

Elton Rule

Tim Russert

Tom Rutledge

Craig Sager

Pat Sajak

Richard S. Salant

Lucie Salhany

Maria Elena Salinas

Jack Sander

Joshua Sapan

Cristina Saralegui

David Sarnoff

Diane Sawyer

Rino Scanzoni

Bob Schieffer

Henry S. Schieff

Herbert S. Schlosser

Allan H. "Bud" Selig

Rod Serling

Eric Sewareid

William Shatner

Bernard Shaw

Judith Sheindlin

Jean Shepherd

Dinah Shore

Neil Smit

Frank Smith

Sen. Gordon H. Smith

Bill Smullin

Jeff Smulyan

Perry A. Sook



GREENBLATT AND WOLF



COLE



BEGGS



SCHLEIFF AND PHILBIN



ROBERTS



GREEN



BRYANT



WALTERS



MCGRAW



STAHL



ROBERTS



ZUCKER



AZCÁRRAGA



KING



LIGGINS



MORITA



HOPKINS



COURIC



HART AND BELL BLUE

# Broadcasting+Cable **BC HALLOfFAME** HONOR ROLL

(2024 RECIPIENTS ARE NOTED IN GOLD)

Donna Speciale

Aaron Spelling

**Valeri Dobson Staab**

Lesley Stahl

Susan Stamberg

Frank Stanton

**George Stephanopoulos**

George Storer

Todd Storz

Howard Stringer

Stuart Sucherman

Ed Sullivan

Jay Sures

David Susskind

Susan Swain

Dennis Swanson

Steven R. Swartz

Anne Sweeney

Curtis Symonds

Sol Taishoff

Brandon Tartikoff

Nina Tassler

Nancy Tellem

Danny Thomas

Lowell Thomas

Marlo Thomas

James Thompson

Barry Thurston

Grant Tinker

Alex Trebek

Keith Turner

Ted Turner

Joe Uva

David Verklin

Meredith Vieira

Tony Vinciguerra

**Dick Vitale**

Jeff Wachtel

**Arthur Wagner**

Dana Walden

Mike Wallace

John W. Waller III

John Walson

Barbara Walters

Vincent T. Wasilewski

Lew Wasserman

Pat Weaver

Robert L. Wehling

Italia Commisso Weinand

Lawrence Welk

Orson Welles

Tom Werner

Tony G. Werner

Jordan Wertlieb

Betty White

Margita White

Paul White

Richard E. Wiley

Michael Willner

Oprah Winfrey

Dick Wolf

David Wolper

Robert C. Wright

Linda Yaccarino

K. James Yager

Ted Yates

Lauren Zalaznick

Cyma Zarghami

Susan Zirinsky

Frederic Ziv

Jeff Zucker

## PROGRAMS

20/20

American Idol

Dateline NBC

Entertainment Tonight

Family Feud

Good Morning America

Inside the NBA

Live With Kelly & Michael

Mad Men

Monday Night Football

The Simpsons

The View

The Walking Dead

60 Minutes

SportsCenter

Today

## ICONIC NETWORKS

ESPN

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Distribution  
*Allen Media Group*



**Bob Bakish**  
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Chief Executive Officer  
*Paramount Global*



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COMMUNITY AWARD**  
**Phillip R. Beuth**  
Retired  
*Capital Cities / ABC TV*



**Valari Dobson  
Staab**  
Chairman  
*NBCUniversal Local*



**Karen Dougherty  
Buchholz**  
Executive Vice President,  
Administration  
*Comcast Corporation*



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AWARD**  
**Mario J Gabelli**  
Chief Investment Officer  
*Gabelli Funds*



**Marianne Gambelli**  
Former President of  
Advertising Sales,  
Marketing & Brand  
Partnerships  
*Fox Corporation*



**Scott Herman**  
Chairman  
*Broadcasters Foundation  
of America*



**Douglas V.  
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President  
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**Steve Lanzano**  
President & CEO  
*TVB*



**William McGorry**  
Chairman  
*Broadcasting + Cable Hall  
of Fame*



**Debra OConnell**  
President, News Group  
and Networks  
*Disney Entertainment  
Television*



**George Stephanopoulos**  
Co-Anchor of Good Morning America,  
ABC News; Anchor of This Week with  
George Stephanopoulos,  
ABC News  
*ABC News*



**HUMANITARIAN AWARD**  
**Dick Vitale**  
Men's College Basketball  
Analyst  
*ESPN*



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ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**  
**Arthur Wagner**  
Executive Chairman of the Board  
& Co-Founder  
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TV BUSINESS OPERATIONS,  
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**GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS**  
CO-ANCHOR OF  
GOOD MORNING AMERICA;  
ANCHOR OF THIS WEEK  
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ABC NEWS



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CO-FOUNDER, ACTIVE  
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And to all the 2024 B&C Hall of Fame Inductees

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television