



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **NCAB Presents Its Annual Station and Industry Broadcast Awards**

**FOR RELEASE: October 26, 2021**

Raleigh, NC, (October 26, 2021) – The North Carolina Broadcasters Association held its Annual Business Meeting virtually and presented its Annual Broadcast Station and Industry awards.

Trip Savery, President and COO at Curtis Media in Raleigh, NC and President of the North Carolina Association of Broadcasters emceed the Awards Ceremony and presented the 2021 NCAB Station Awards and Industry Awards.

#### **2021 NCAB Station Awards**

Only NCAB member radio and television stations are eligible to participate in the NCAB Station Awards. Awards are based on projects first aired between January 1 and December 31, 2020. The station award winners for 2021 are:

**Radio Personality or Team of the Year:** The Aaron Keck Show on WCHL-FM in Chapel Hill, NC.

**Radio Personality Award for a Large Market:** Jared and Katie on WKZL-FM in Greensboro, NC.

**Radio Station of the Year Non-Metro Station of the Year:** WCHL-FM in Chapel Hill, NC.

**Large Market Station of the Year:** WRAL-FM in Raleigh, NC

**Radio Community Involvement Station Award:** WCHL-FM in Chapel Hill.

**TV Community Involvement Station award:** WFMY-TV in Greensboro.

**Outstanding Newscast Award:** WFMY-TV in Greensboro for “Simply TOO Much Rain”

**Outstanding Sports Story or Series Award:** WFMY-TV in Greensboro for “A Coach’s Sacrifice.”

**Outstanding Hard News or Breaking Story:** WRAL-TV in Raleigh for its coverage of the 2020 Riots in Downtown Raleigh and Fayetteville.

**Best News Anchor** is Chad Silber of WFMY-TV in Greensboro.

## **2021 Wade H. Hargrove Community Leadership**

The Wade H. Hargrove Community Leadership Award was created in 2011 and is intended to recognize individuals or groups who have made significant contributions toward their communities or to the general well-being or improvement of the citizens of their local community, county, or state.

This year's recipient has worked tirelessly to protect the people of North Carolina. Mike Sprayberry, the head of North Carolina's emergency management operations since 2013, retired this past August.

Throughout his tenure, Mike has been the most visible face for state government's efforts to prepare for and recover from hurricanes, snowstorms, ice storms and other emergencies, including the COVID 19 pandemic. With more than forty years of service, he led the State Emergency Response Team in 19 state-declared disasters and 11 federally declared disasters, including Hurricane Florence in 2018, the department said.

## **Distinguished Service Awards**

The Distinguished Service Award was established in 1973 to recognize broadcasters who have given outstanding service to or on behalf of the broadcast industry. For 2021, the Distinguished Service Award is being presented to Tiffany Hewitt. Tiffany is the General Manager at Muirfield Broadcasting based in Southern Pines, NC. She began her career in Greenville, NC working as an account executive for Henry Hinton of Inner Banks Media. As a 25-year veteran of Muirfield Broadcasting, Tiffany has made her mark on the Southern Pines community.

She has served on the NCAB Board for the past twelve years and served as the President of NCAB for the 2017-2018 term. Tiffany's service to the broadcast industry and to NCAB has been extraordinary.

## **NCAB Hall of Fame Award**

The NCAB Hall of Fame Award was initiated in 1970. This award is designed to recognize and honor persons who have contributed to the broadcast industry in the past or over an extended period of time.

First to be inducted into the Hall of Fame for 2021 was John Hancock. He recently retired after 50 years of on-air service with the past 30 years in Charlotte. John arrived in Charlotte and at WBT in December of 1990 and has helped shape the conversation in the Queen City ever since by musing on the issues of the day with his unique perspective. For nearly three decades, John's daily show provided a mix of information and opinion, peppered with humor and just the right dose of sarcasm, enabling him to become a cherished and trusted voice for the community, known universally as "Charlotte's Most Beloved."

As an integral part of the community, he showed how much he cared including his unconditional commitment to the *Kids First of the Carolina's* holiday bike drive, his annual "Father's Day" show, and "Peanut Butter N July" benefitting the Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina.

John Hancock aired his final daily show on WBT 1110 AM on October 17, 2019. But, even in retirement, he remains active in radio and at WBT in the form of two commentaries a week and joining Bo Thompson on the morning show for an hour every Friday.

## NCAB Hall of Fame Award

The second and final Hall of Fame inductee for 2021 was Carl Kasell. Carl started his radio career at the young age 16, DJ-ing a late-night music show on his local station.

While attending the University of North Carolina, Carl was, unsurprisingly, one of the very first students to work at its brand-new station, WUNC. After graduation he served in the military. But a job was waiting for him back home at his old station in Goldsboro.

He then moved to Northern Virginia to spin records, but a friend persuaded him to take a job at an all-news station. In 1975, Carl joined NPR as a part-time employee. Four years later, he announced the news for the first broadcast of a new show called *Morning Edition*. Over three decades, he became one of the network's most recognized voices.

And then came a surprise second act; after decades of being super-serious, Carl got a chance to let his hair down as the official judge and scorekeeper for *Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me!*

Carl may have been known for his measured, on-air newscast persona, but behind the scenes, the kind, witty newsman had plenty of surprises.

Carl passed away in April of 2018, but NCAB proudly honors him posthumously with his Hall of Fame induction.

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### About NCAB

The North Carolina Association of Broadcasters is a statewide organization of public and commercial radio and television broadcast stations. The purpose of the Association is to promote closer cooperation and understanding among members; to make possible unified effort when unity is beneficial; to protect its members in every lawful and proper manner from injustices and unjust exactions; to encourage and promote customs and practices which will be for the best interests of the public and the broadcasting industry; and to help educate the public and business generally concerning the uses and values of broadcasting advertising. Additional information is available on the NCAB website ([www.ncbroadcast.com](http://www.ncbroadcast.com)).

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