March 29th 2025

## **Honoring Excellence in Broadcast Journalism**







**Radio & Television News Association of Southern California** 

# Years of RTNA:

The rich history of radio and television has many historic moments based in Southern California.

In 1927, an inventor living in Los Angeles, Philo T. Farnsworth, created the first electronic television system in his home lab in East Hollywood.

### In 1931, a transmitter was built atop the Don Lee auto dealership in Los Angeles, and experimental television station W6XAO went on the air. However, if you wanted to watch any of the programs, you would have to build your own TV set.

On the radio side, KNX went on the air in 1921 and KFI in 1922. As radio needed more space, NBC built its network radio studios at the corner of Sunset and Vine, and CBS opened Columbia Square at Sunset and Gower, both in 1938.

Experimental TV continued as Paramount Pictures and Klaus Landsberg put station W6XYZ on the air in 1943. KTTV, Channel 11, half owned by CBS and the Los Angeles Times, began broadcasting in 1949 from the top of the Bekins building.

1951 saw the first transcontinental television show. In 1952, one day apart, CBS opened Television City and NBC began broadcasting from its new Burbank facility. In 1954, KTLA moved from the Paramount lot to the former Warner Bros. site on Sunset.

The first live color broadcast was the Rose parade in 1954 on NBC. CBS used the first Ampex videotape machine in 1956, while color videotape would come in 1958 at NBC.

# **Broadcast News**

#### **By Joel Tator**

In 1952, KTLA made history by broadcasting an atomic bomb blast live from Nevada. Before satellite trucks, Landsberg set up a series of mountain microwave relay points to get the signal to Los Angeles. In 1958, KTLA introduced the world's first telecopter. For several years, it was the only station to have the technology.

KMEX signed on in 1962 and KCET in 1964. HD broadcasts arrived in 1996.

Many stars of the future started on local radio and television in Southern California. Johnny Carson was a staff announcer at Channel 2, while Betty White hosted a daytime show on Channel 13. Lawrence Welk began on Channel 5, and Liberace on Channel 13. Steve Allen and Bob Crane had local radio shows on KNX, and Tennessee Ernie Ford on Channel 13. Bob Barker and Rose Marie hosted local shows on Channel 9.

Local news and weather anchors who worked in Southern California before going national have included Tom Snyder, Tom

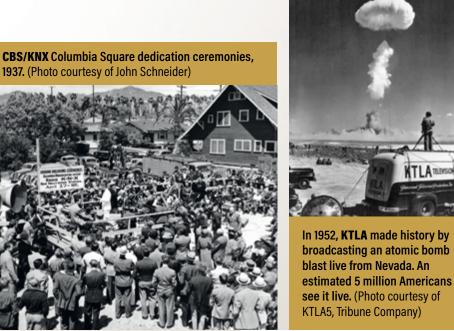
Brokaw, Connie Chung, Pat Sajak, Regis Philbin, Bryant Gumbel and Lester Holt.

And, Stan Chambers worked for more than six decades, from 1947 to 2010, as a reporter at KTLA. He covered more than 22,000 stories and was the winner of the very first RTNA Lifetime Achievement Award.

All in all, it's a lot of local history!

Joel Tator is a broadcast news pioneer who started at KTLA in 1960. He produced or directed more than 8,500 live broadcasts and has won 25 Emmys during his career.

and Beyond



The KFI studio in the Anthony building in 1924.

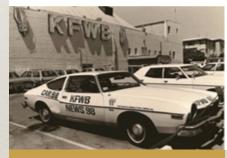


By 1924, KFI was broadcasting with 5 kW from these towers on the roof of the Anthony building.



Sign-on day! KFMB-TV San Diego signs on the air in 1949.





KFWB News 98. The All-News radio station's longtime Yucca Street Home. Note the stylish news cars it had at the time!

The RCA 50-D transmitter installed at KNX in 1938. (Photo courtesy of John Schneider)





Color TV debuted at the 1954 Rose Parade.

Legendary **KTLA** anchorman Hal Fishman in 1995. KTLA's News At 10 led the market at 10 PM for years.

Philo Farnsworth with the television receiver he invented. (Philo T. Farnsworth Photograph Collection/ Special Collections, J. Willard Marriott Library, The University of Utah)





Bob Crane at KNX, about 1960. (Photo courtesy of John Schneider)

The new transmitter antenna and station building for Don Lee Broadcasting System's electronic television station **W6XAO**, located atop Griffith Park's 1,700 ft. high Mt. Lee, ca. 1938. (Source: LAPL)







The **KNXT** (Now KCBS-TV) news team in the 1960's. They dominated LA teleivision news ratings in the 1960's.



KNX 500-watt transmitter in 1926. Paul O'Hana at the controls.



**CBS/KNX** Columbia Square, 6121 Sunset Boulevard, Hollywood. (Image courtesy of John Schneider)



**KNX** studio building, 5939 Sunset Boulevard, Hollywood. (Source: Security Pacific National Bank)

A billboard for **KFI** in the 1970's. Before it was news/talk, it was a Top-40 radio station



# A Message from RTNA President Chris Little

### Welcome to the 2025 Golden Mikes Awards<sup>®</sup> Show and Dinner!

The Radio Television News Association is celebrating a major milestone this year. This is the 75th anniversary of the Golden Mikes. The first awards were in 1950, when radio was still Southern California's primary broadcast news source and a television live remote was still a novelty that took a truck the size of a bus. TV newscasts were only 15 minutes long in the early days.

Tonight, we honor the best in local broadcast journalism. Plus, we are presenting Lifetime Achievement Awards to KNX Radio's Pete Demetriou, KABC-TV's Rob Fukuzaki, KNBC's Joel Grover, KTLA's late entertainment reporting icon Sam Rubin, and our Freedom of Information Award to preeminent legal journalism attorney Royal Oakes.

While we're here tonight for the glitz of the awards, the RTNA works year-round to do the important business of supporting our newsrooms. We coordinate television pool coverage of major trials and events, reducing confusion and saving stations tens of thousands of dollars each year by sharing resources. Since last year's award ceremony, our Executive Director, Maydie Encinas, and our pool liaison have put together more than 60 pools, including the arrival of the 2028 Olympic Flag and the memorial for Fernando Valenzuela.

And remember the 2024 Los Angeles Dodgers World Series Championship Parade? We worked closely with Spectrum SportsNet to make the pool coverage possible so fans could see everything from the parade to the ceremonies at Dodger Stadium.

Our Freedom of Information Committee, led by Steve Gregory, worked to deal with media access issues ranging from parking to getting to the scene of breaking news stories like crime scenes and wildfires. We worked with the LAPD to help clarify drone use for newsgathering. And, our members continued to lead training for first responders so they can understand our needs and how media access is required by law.

It's been a tough year with some stations hit by cutbacks and layoffs. However, since last year's Golden Mikes, we have also done some of our finest work, rising to the occasion to cover the major wildfires in Ventura County, Malibu, Altadena and Pacific Palisades. Some radio stations pulled out all the stops to provide coverage. TV stations stayed on with live news coverage around the clock, providing critical information.

We did what we do best. We provided vital information during emergencies. We can all be proud of doing what we could to help, and continue to do to this day.

Congratulations to all of tonight's nominees and winners. We hope you have a great evening!

Chris Little President, RTNA



Major TV Pool Coverage for the Major League Champs

# LA Celebrates the Los Angeles Dodgers' Eighth World Series Championship

By JUAN ESCOBAR and MAYDIE ENCINAS

since 1988, and LA was ready to celebrate. According to officials, around 2 million fans lined the streets to celebrate their team. The Dodgers had to wait 36 years to have a Victory Parade; they won it all in 2020, but because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the parade was canceled. All Los Angeles and all the players needed to have a full-fledged parade and celebration. We waited too long for the parade, and the RTNA Pool Members were more than ready to take on the monumental endeavor of bringing the images of this major event to the homes of millions of Angelenos. Weeks before the Dodgers won the World Series, the RTNA met with Spectrum SportsNet and the Dodgers Organization to begin the early stages of planning the pool camera coverage of a possible Victory Parade celebration; soon after, Operations and News Managers from the major LA TV stations joined us. Logistics and pool camera locations, including helicopter coverage, were decided and assigned to each of the news outlets, along with the distribution of spaces at the Media Pit at Grand Park in front of City Hall where several TV stations would be presenting their morning newscasts. Once the Dodgers clinched the Championship in Game 5, the event planning kicked into high gear as tons of emails and phone calls went back and forth between the RTNA, our pool members, Spectrum SportsNet and the Dodgers Organization to finalize all aspects of the TV coverage.

It was the Dodgers' first World Series Parade

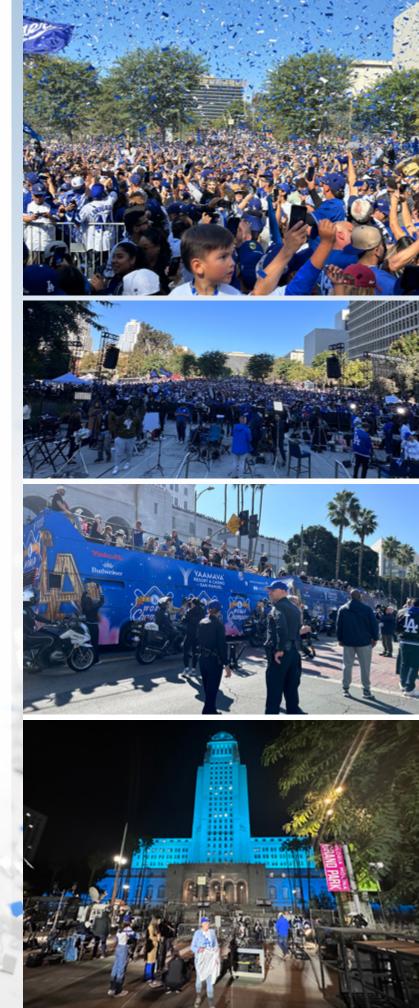
Early morning on a cold parade day, TV crews and the talent began to take their positions along the parade route and at the Media Pit. Helicopters were getting ready to take flight to provide aerial shots of

# "Working with seasoned professionals, we knew it was going to be a great day at work."

the celebration as fans began to arrive to claim their spots on the streets and at Grand Park to cheer on their team and favorite players. As the World Series Champions' buses began to arrive at City Hall to kick off the parade, the crowd came alive, and you could see the players' faces lighting up with emotion. What a difference four years make! What a difference 36 years make! This was the celebration they all had been waiting for since 1988.

The production of this event, led by Spectrum SportsNet, was challenging, but with their leadership, and despite a few glitches, the parade and television coverage were a total success. We all live for moments like this... Working with seasoned professionals, we knew it was going to be a great day at work.

As always, we thank the RTNA major pool stations for their contributions to the parade pool coverage, especially the News Operations Managers, News Managers and, most of all, the reporters, photographers and crews in the trenches for their hard work, for dealing with the unexpected with such poise, and for their invaluable help with all pool camera coverage during 2024. We also thank The Vox Group for providing high-speed internet to the crews at the Media Pit and for trouble-shooting issues that came up. We hope we can do it again with the Dodgers and LA's other major sports teams in 2025.





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# CALIFORNIA **PENAL CODE 409.5:**

# A Tool for Transparency

### **By RTNA's Media Access Committee**



"409.5" – Sometimes we have to utter this number every time we approach a checkpoint. It's become the key for entry at the scene of every fire, earthquake and flood in California. Did you know California is one of four states in the country with a law that guarantees access to certain locations? Ohio, Virginia and, most recently, Oregon adopted a law allowing journalists to access certain locations under specific circumstances.

### WHY 409.5 WORKS

In the age of instant news and citizen journalism, the line between observer and participant can blur quickly, especially at volatile events. For journalists covering protests, demonstrations or other civil disturbances, the potential for interference, harassment and even arrest is a constant threat. A critical safeguard against such obstruction in California is Penal Code 409.5, protecting our right to access and report on these newsworthy events. While often misunderstood, this statute serves as a powerful tool for the free press and, consequently, for the public's right to know.

California Penal Code 409.5 makes it a misdemeanor to willfully obstruct or resist a "duly authorized representative of any news service, newspaper, radio or television station" while they are engaged in the "gathering, receiving or processing of news." This protection extends to photographers, camera operators, reporters and other journalistic staff. The law recognizes the vital role journalists play in informing the public about matters of public concern, particularly during rapidly unfolding and potentially chaotic situations.

POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS

The value of 409.5 becomes clear when considering the challenges journalists face on the ground. Imagine a protest turning confrontational. Law enforcement may attempt to control the crowd, sometimes resorting to tactics that raise questions about excessive force or the suppression of free speech. Without journalists present to document these events, the public's understanding of what transpired would be severely limited, relying solely on official accounts. Penal Code 409.5 acts as a buffer against such information control, ensuring that journalists can capture and disseminate these critical moments.

This protection isn't just about the journalists themselves; it's about the public's right to know. The First Amendment guarantees freedom of the press, and 409.5 gives teeth to that guarantee in the context of newsgathering at public events. By safeguarding journalists' access, the law ensures that the public receives firsthand accounts and visual documentation, allowing them to form their own informed opinions. This is especially crucial in situations where narratives are contested or where there's a risk of misinformation.

### WHO EXACTLY IS A JOURNALIST?

The application of 409.5 is not without its nuances. The law requires that the journalist be "duly authorized" and "engaged in the gathering, receiving or processing of news." This raises questions about who qualifies as a journalist and what constitutes legitimate newsgathering activity. While traditional media outlets are clearly covered, the rise of independent bloggers, citizen journalists and social media content creators complicates the picture. Courts have generally interpreted the term "news service" broadly, recognizing the evolving landscape of journalism.

Another critical aspect of 409.5 is the requirement that obstruction or resistance be "willful." This means that accidental or unintentional interference is not covered by the law. The intent to impede newsgathering must be demonstrated. This can be a complex legal question, particularly in the heat of the moment during a rapidly evolving event.

POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS

### **409.5 IS NOT A FREE FOR ALL**

While 409.5 guarantees access to certain scenes under most circumstances, it does not mandate the access be swift and immediate. During recent fires in the LA area, law enforcement at checkpoints were met with people who had presented fake media credentials, fake news vehicles, and claimed to be media without any identification to support their assertion. The rise in fraudulent behavior has put law enforcement on alert, which means legitimate news gatherers will most probably be asked to prove their media affiliation up to and including a call to their assignment desk. This is not intended to impede a journalist's ability to report their story, but the additional vetting helps to curb looting and other nefarious behavior. Simply saying, "Don't you know who I am?" doesn't really cut it anymore. And, as for a marked media vehicle? Did you hear about the posers who tried to drive an actual fire engine into the Palisades fire zone?

Despite these complexities, 409.5 remains a valuable tool for journalists in California. It provides a legal framework for asserting their right to access and report on newsworthy events, protecting them from unlawful interference. While it doesn't guarantee absolute access in every situation, it serves as a crucial deterrent against those who might seek to suppress information and control the narrative. In a world where information is more critical than ever, 409.5 plays a vital role in ensuring that the public remains informed and that the powerful are held accountable. It is a testament to the importance of a free press and its essential role in a democratic society.

RTNA's Media Access Committee recently met with various agencies involved with the Palisades and Eaton fires regarding issues with access to the fire zones. The After Action Summit was well attended and represented fire, police, sheriff, local government and the Governor's office. 409.5 was a big part of the discussion, including recent amendments to the law. It was mutually agreed that there were issues on both sides of the yellow tape, and more can be done to improve communication and understanding. Stay tuned for more on a statewide initiative to train media outlets and public officials on the proper application of 409.5.

POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS

### 819



# RTNA Mission Statement

### THE RADIO & TELEVISION NEWS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (RTNA)

is a non-profit organization of professional broadcast journalists dedicated to:

- Protecting the public's right-to-know and First Amendment rights of a free press through our advocacy efforts with government;
- Facilitating effective and unobtrusive media coverage of important news events through our efforts coordinating pool cameras;
- ▶ Promoting excellence in local broadcast journalism through our "Golden Mike Awards®";
- Providing a collegial forum for discussion of relevant issues facing the broadcast news industry through our special events;
- Encouraging the development of excellent student journalists through our scholarship program.

Join us in this important work by becoming a member of the RTNA!

Just access our website www.rtnasocal.org and sign up!



www.rtnasocal.org @rtnasocal

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# Golden Mike Awards® Committee

Award Ceremony Chairs

Award Show Producer Award Contest Manager

- Award Show Director
- Award Show Announcer
- Award Chief Coordinator
- Managing Program Supervisor
- Program Editor in Chief
- Senior Program Designer
- Program Director of Sales
- Social Media Producer
- Flower Designers

Maydie Encinas Ernie Castelo Lance Orozco Ernie Castelo Mark Drew Jim Thornton Juan Escobar Maydie Encinas Ed Ochs Elaine Tan Juan Escobar

Lance Orozco

- Jamie Mitchell
- Ameli's Flowers

# LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD PETE DEMETRIOU

# Pete Demetriou



If there's a fire, flood or SWAT team standoff in Southern California, the odds are good you're going to find Pete Demetriou on the scene, if not in the middle of it. He's a voice the region has relied on for breaking news for four decades.

Demetriou is a Los Angeles native and graduate of UCLA. He started in 1978 at KLAC Radio. He then worked for the ABC and AP Radio Networks before joining KFWB in 1985. He quickly developed a reputation as a street reporter who was not afraid to ask the tough questions and put officials on the spot. Demetriou moved to then-sister station KNX in 2008, where he's been for the last 17 years.

His work took him to the first Gulf War, the middle of the 1992 Los Angeles riots, the 2000 Democratic National Convention protests, the George Floyd demonstrations, and too many crime scenes and wildfires to count.

While he likes to be first on the scene and first on the air, he's loved by fellow reporters for taking a moment to bring them up to speed on an incident or share tips on who is a good interview. And, with the same powerful delivery you hear on the air, he's always ready with a humorous observation.

Pete's motto is a simple one: "We're writing the first rough draft of history every day."





# CONGRATULATE

# PETE DEMETRIOU

on his LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD for Decades of Dedication to Credible, Trustworthy Journalism in Southern California

# CONGRATULATIONS Golden Mike Award Winners!



ADVANCING PUBLIC SECTOR COMMUNICATORS

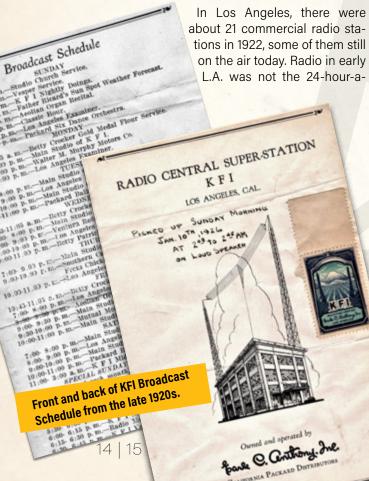
California Association of Public Information Officials | www.capio.org

Typical setup for an **RCA Radiola with RCA** Loudspeaker from

# The History of around 1927. By STEVEN DUGAN Radio in Los Angeles

No one could have imagined the impact radio would have on Americans when KDKA in Pittsburgh went on the air in 1920. Before then, electronic communication in the U.S. was very limited. The telegraph had been around since the 1840s, but the telephone didn't come into widespread use until the 1890s. Radio pioneers like Guglielmo Marconi used newly discovered radio waves to create a wireless form of communication - something that the telegraph and telephone were not.

KDKA is regarded as the first commercially licensed radio station in the world. There were other stations that broadcast before KDKA in 1920, but they were experimental stations not fully licensed. Jim Hilliker, former Los Angeles broadcaster and radio historian, writes that ham operators began sending music over the airwaves as early as 1908, albeit on a purely amateur level. By 1922, some 600 stations dotted the landscape across the U.S., providing news and entertainment to Americans. As long as your family owned a radio, you could hear the President's voice from the White House or a concert from New York City! Radio sales soared.



day endeavor it is now. Many stations were on for a few hours a day, or they would broadcast a few hours in the morning and not resume programming until the evening. Other stations even powered down at certain times because they shared frequencies with other stations.

To give you an idea of life in the '20s, the population of the U.S. was 114 million. The average yearly income was \$1,124. The median price of a new home was \$7,720. The average cost of a new car was \$398. A gallon of gasoline cost 21 cents. A quart of milk went for 13 cents, a loaf of bread was 9 cents, a dozen eggs sold for 43 cents and a pound of steak was 41 cents.

One of the earliest radio stations in L.A., which first broadcast on April 13, 1922, is a familiar one: KHJ 930 AM. Three days later, KFI went on the air. Other stations like KFWB, KECA (later KABC) and KNX (an experimental station in 1921) soon began commercial broadcasting. Call letters in the East generally started with a W, in the West with a K, and were assigned two ways. Through April 1922, radio stations were given three-letter call signs. After that, the Commerce Department, then in charge of radio licensing, distributed call signs with four letters, beginning with KD, KE, KF and so on.

The other way call letters were created allowed station owners to request call signs to help listeners better remember the station. For example, KHJ advertised their call letters meant Kindness, Happiness and Joy. KECA was named after its owner, Earle C. Anthony, who also owned KFI. KFI was rumored to stand for Farm Information because they broadcast frost reports, warning farmers and orchard owners to light up their smudge pots overnight to keep their crops from freezing. According to KFI's website, the connection between its call letters and farm information was a happy coincidence - the call letters were assigned in order using the three-letter formula.

Daily programming on KFI consisted of Vesper Services, or evening prayers, from the Christian Church. Owner Earle Anthony broadcast a weekly show from his Packard dealership. Music from Chickering Hall in Los Angeles provided entertainment. Whether you had a radio or went to a friend's house to listen, the radio brought the country and the world into your living room. When radios were installed in cars, they fit perfectly into L.A.'s commuter lifestyle.

Article and photos courtesy of Workman and Temple Family Homestead Museum, City of Industry, California.

# CONGRATULATIONS

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# REBKUZAKI

Receiving the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Honor!



# LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD ROB FUKUZAKI

# Rob Fukuzaki

**Rob Fukuzaki** is the weekday sports anchor for ABC7 Eyewitness News as well as host of special sports programming like Slam Dunk, Rams pre- and post-game shows, Saturday Night Sports and Sunday Night Sports. When Rob joined ABC7 in 1994, he became the first male Japanese-American TV anchor in Los Angeles local TV News.

Rob was born on July 4 in Torrance, California, but was raised in Honolulu, Hawaii, where his family relocated when he was three years old. Rob graduated from Mid-Pacific Institute high school in Honolulu. He attended the University of La Verne in Southern California and earned a B.A. in Broadcast Journalism with an emphasis in radio and television. While at La Verne, Rob was chosen as the university's Broadcaster of the Year three consecutive years.



Rob began his broadcast career for Top 40 radio station KXPW in Hawaii. Soon after, he began working part-time for KITV in Honolulu doing sports reporting. He eventually earned a full-time slot working as the station's weekday sports reporter and weekend anchor. One of his more memorable assignments at KITV was an award-winning special on Sumo in Japan. The broadcast featured the three top-ranked wrestlers from Hawaii, including Grand Champion Akebono and Grand Champion Musashimaru.

Since joining ABC7, Rob has done a great deal of work for the community, hosting charity events and emceeing benefit dinners. In 1996, he founded the Heads Up Youth Foundation, of which Rob is the Chairman and his wife Sharil is the Executive Director. The goal of the foundation is to help disadvantaged youth in Southern California. Some of the highlights of the Foundation's work: providing lowincome schools with backpacks, school supplies and shoes, building a science lab and reading centers, and providing scholarships for foster youth attending college.

It has been Rob's dream to have the opportunity to cover all his favorite childhood teams in Southern California. In nearly 25 years at ABC7, he has covered Super Bowls, NBA Finals, World Series, Stanley Cup Finals and Championship Boxing.

In 2016, Rob was inducted into the Southern California Sports Broadcasters Hall of Fame, joining, among others, his heroes Vin Scully, Chick Hearn and Bob Miller.

Rob's interests include golf, music and singing, and he often uses his passion for music in his work. He has written and recorded tributes for legendary Dodgers manager Tommy Lasorda and former Dodgers star Raul Mondesi.

In May 2019, Rob and his wife Sharil welcomed their first child, Maverick, to the Fukuzaki family, which has changed their lives for the better!



CONGRATULATIONS **ROB FUKUZAKI** FOR THE GOLDEN MIKE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

YOUR HARD WORK, PASSION FOR SPORTS BROADCASTING AND DEDICATION TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF UNDERSERVED YOUTH IS AN INSPIRATION TO US ALL.

WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU.



### **HEADS UP** YOUTH FOUNDATION

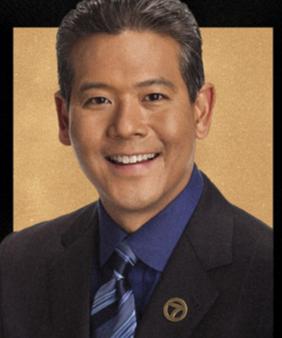
# CONGRATULATIONS





ON YOUR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT LAFC



OS ANGELES

# Joel Grover

In his 42 years in TV news, investigative reporter Joel Grover's reports have changed laws, resulted in prison sentences and helped cheated consumers recover millions of dollars in refunds.

Grover was born and raised in the San Fernando Valley. He knew he wanted to be an investigative reporter when he was a reporter for the newspaper at Grant High School in Van Nuys. His dream was to one day achieve that goal in his hometown.

After graduating from UC Berkeley, he got his start as a reporter (and weatherman) in Grand Junction, Colorado, then worked at TV stations in five cities before getting hired to lead a new investigative team at KCBS2 in 1996. Among his investigations was a series of hidden-camera reports exposing filthy conditions at some of LA's most famous restaurants, and how the LA County Health Department turned a blind eye to these conditions. His reports prompted the LA County Board of Supervisors to create the A-B-C grading system for restaurants. The next year, his investigation of systematic cheating at car dealerships across Southern California resulted in six managers at one of the state's largest dealerships being sentenced to prison.

In 2003, Grover was hired at NBC4 for a new I-Team, where he spent 22 years until leaving TV news in December 2024. While at NBC4, his reports brought sweeping changes: He exposed how drinking fountains at LAUSD schools were dispensing lead-contaminated water. His report resulted in the district replacing or retrofitting hundreds of aging fountains so kids would have safe drinking water. His undercover reports into widespread cheating at the country's largest auto repair chain – Jiffy Lube – resulted in a corporate-wide reorganization to prevent cheating.

Grover has also held politicians accountable. During LA's severe drought in 2009, he caught city agencies and politicians violating the city's watering bans, including then-Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa watering the huge lawns at the mayor's mansion in the middle of the night. In 2011, Grover exposed how uniformed LA Parking Enforcement Officers took part in pornographic movies and solicited prostitutes – while on duty. Those reports resulted in the resignation of LA's longtime Chief of Parking Enforcement, who knew about the officers' activities but failed to discipline them.

During his career, Grover has won almost every major award for TV investigative reporting, including a Peabody, the duPont-Columbia Award, six national Edward R. Murrow Awards, three IRE (Investigative Reporters and Editors) medals, 27 Emmys and dozens of Golden Mikes.

However, he says his biggest award in life is his family, including his husband Mendes, their 17-yearold twins Noah and Maya and his 100-year-old mother Ruth, who remains a loyal NBC4 viewer.



The **75** th Annual **GOLDEN MIKE AWARDS**<sup>®</sup> Honoring Excellence in Broadcast Journalism

# A Legacy of Truth. A Lifetime of Impact.

For decades, Joel Grover has set the standard for investigative journalism. His relentless pursuit of the truth has not only exposed corruption and wrongdoing but has also led to real change-protecting consumers, holding the powerful accountable, and making communities safer.

Congratulations Joel Grover,

on a lifetime of fearless reporting and lasting impact.



# Sam Rubin

### In a city known for its larger-than-life stars,

Sam Rubin was in a league of his own. Dubbed "The Moses of Hollywood Moguls" by Tom Hanks, Sam served over three decades as the weekday entertainment anchor on KTLA 5 Morning News.

He joined the team in 1991, instantly making an impact with his encyclopedic knowledge of film and television and infectious charm, earning a reputation as someone who went beyond the entertainment headlines of the day.

Sam's exploration of the deeper impact of stories within the entertainment industry generated conversation inside and outside the business. "He made you feel special every

### "He made you feel special every single time, and I am single time, and I am not the only who felt that warmth," person who felt that warmth." reflected actor Henry

### -Henry Winkler on my 85th interview

that day, I was always happy to see Sam," actor Ryan Reynolds said. "Even if he was on his 85th interview that day, he always brought genuine kindness, curiosity and an outsidethe-box question."

Throughout his career, Sam earned numerous Emmy awards. He was named Best Entertainment Reporter by the Los received a Golden Mike Award. In 2013, he was honored by the Nation-

"Even if I was on my 85th interview that day, I was always happy to see Sam. Even if he was on his 85th interview that day, he always brought Angeles Press Club and genuine kindness, curiosity and an outside-the-box question."

not the only person

Winkler. "Even if I was

#### -Ryan Reynolds

al Hispanic Media Coalition with its Impact Award for Outstanding Integrity in Broadcast Journalism.

Sam's reach was global. He appeared on BBC, ITV and GB News in the United Kingdom and was a regular contributor to Australia's Triple M radio and Channel 9. Sam also knew the power of the pen. His written work was published in print and online, and he authored two books.

He was one of the founding members of the Broadcast Film Critics Association, the largest organization of film and television critics in the U.S. with more than 200 members. In 1996, the BFCA began the Critics Choice Movie Awards, which rose in prominence to the same tier as the Academy Awards and the Golden Globes. He hosted the 2013 Critics Choice Awards, which was seen in more than 2 million homes, making it the No. 1 rated show in Los Angeles and other major cities.

Sam also owned SRE Inc., a television production company that produced more than 200 hours of broadcast and cable programming, including several "Live From" red carpet shows and 120 episodes of the talk show "Hollywood Uncensored."

Off the air, Sam supported a wide range of non-profit organizations and took particular pride in organizing KTLA's team for the annual MS 150 Bay to Bay Bike Tour, a premiere cycling event that raises funds to find a cure for multiple sclerosis.

Sam's connections to Southern California ran deep. He was born in San Diego and grew up in L.A.'s Rancho Park neighborhood. He earned a Bachelor of Arts from L.A.'s Occidental College before launching his local news career.

He passed away on May 10, 2024 at the age of 64. Sam's legacy is survived by his wife Leslie and children Perry, Rory, Darcy and Colby.





From all of us in your KTLA Family, thank you, Sam.

> You will always be, LA's Very Own.

### CONGRATULATIONS

to all the nominees for their exceptional work and dedication. We look forward to celebrating your achievements.

CHRISTINE MICELI LAUREN LLANOS CARLOS SAUCEDO MARY BETH MCDADE THOMAS DEMANE



# Membership

LA's Very Own

RTNA offers different categories of membership depending upon your professional status:

ACTIVE MEMBER: \$40 annual dues. For working broadcast journalists.

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE: \$60 annual dues.** Those engaged in providing a service to broadcast news.

EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATE: \$40 annual dues. Faculty.

**INACTIVE ASSOCIATE: \$60 annual dues**. Broadcast Journalist with at least one year's experience, not eligible for above categories.

### STUDENT: \$15 annual dues.

With members in news departments at most radio and television stations in the area, the RTNA is one of the most influential professional organizations in Southern California.

Join us today by accessing our website at *www.rtnasocal.org*, Click on "Membership" and apply online!

The Radio & Television News Association of Southern California is proud to honor attorney Royal Oakes with its prestigious Freedom of Information Award. The award is given to those organizations and individuals who exemplify dedication to media access, transparency and First Amendment advocacy.

# **Royal Oakes: A Titan of Legal Journalism –**

Royal Oakes' contributions

coverage of the O.J. Simpson

to the RTNA, his seminal

media appearances have

world of legal journalism.

left an indelible mark on the

trial and his numerous

Royal Oakes, a distinguished attorney and eminent figure in legal journalism, has had an illustrious career that spans numerous high-profile cases and extensive media appearances. Royal has been Co-General Counsel for the Radio & Television News Association of Southern California (RTNA) since the early 1990s and has cemented his reputation as a leading voice in legal analysis and commentary.

### **Championing Excellence in Broadcast Journalism**

As an active member of the RTNA, Royal Oakes has tirelessly contributed to the advancement of broadcast journalism. The RTNA, which recognizes and honors outstanding achievements in radio, television and digital journalism in Southern California, has benefited

immensely from Oakes' expertise and dedication. His involvement has helped uphold the association's mission of promoting the highest standards of journalistic integrity and excellence.

Royal was instrumental in fighting for cameras in courtrooms throughout Southern California.

On behalf of RTNA's constituents, he testified in 1996 before a task force on cameras in the courtroom, advocating for transparency in the judicial process. He argued that the public deserves to witness court proceedings first-hand, emphasizing that even high-profile cases like the O.J. Simpson trial should not deter media access.

For several decades, RTNA has sought to inject transparency into the justice system by fighting for courtroom cameras in cases of substantial public interest.

The battle shouldn't have been necessary. Subject to rare exceptions like national security and the privacy of kids and crime victims, giving citizens a look at one of the most important functions performed by our government should be a no-brainer. Sadly, it's not.

There should be a strong presumption in favor of electronic coverage of court proceedings, and thus, subject to valid objections, requests for audio and video access should be granted. Instead, the Rules of Court in California and elsewhere can make it feel like tap dancing in molasses to get a court to give the green light to cameras.

A wide variety of speed bumps dot the road. Added publicity might jeopardize a fair trial? A witness might

be anxious about the presence of the camera? The camera adds 15 pounds? These and countless other excuses have been used for decades to shut the courtroom door in the faces of tens of millions of Americans having a legitimate and intense interest in high-profile trials and a stake in the fair and efficient

functioning of our judicial system.

### The O.J. Simpson Murder Trial: A Defining Moment

One of the most pivotal moments in Oakes' career was his coverage of the O.J. Simpson murder trial. The trial, which captivated the nation and became a media sensation, saw Oakes at the forefront, providing incisive legal analysis and commentary. His astute observations and comprehensive understanding of the legal intricacies involved in the case garnered widespread acclaim.

# From the Courtroom to the Airwayes

Oakes' coverage of the Simpson trial was not just about A Legacy of Legal Excellence and Media Savvy reporting on the proceedings; it was about making complex legal issues accessible to the general public. His ability to distill intricate legal arguments into clear and understandable commentary made him a trusted source of information during this landmark trial.

### A Familiar Face and Voice in Media

Beyond his work with the RTNA and his coverage of the Simpson trial, Oakes has been a ubiquitous presence on television and radio. His many appearances on various networks have made him a household name. Whether providing expert legal analysis on breaking news or offering insights on ongoing legal battles, he has consistently demonstrated his profound knowledge and eloquence.

Oakes' expertise has made him a sought-after commentator on both television and radio. He has appeared on national programs, such as ABC's "Good Morning America," NBC's "Today Show" and various news magazine shows, offering legal analysis on prominent cases. In Los Angeles, he has served as the legal analyst for NBC4 News, KABC Radio and KFWB All-News Radio. His one-minute segment, "It's The Law," was broadcast nationally on Westwood One's "Metro Networks." In 2017, the City of Los Angeles honored Oakes for his 30 years of media analysis and commentary, recognizing his dedication to keeping the public informed on pressing legal matters in a way that was easily understood. Royal and his son Conner, also an attorney, host the podcast "Too Many Lawyers," available on all the popular platforms.

Oakes' career is a testament to his unwavering commitment to legal excellence and his adeptness at bridging the gap between the legal world and the media. His work has not only informed and educated the public, it has also set a high standard for legal journalism.

As he continues to influence both the legal and journalistic fields, Oakes remains a paragon of professionalism and expertise. His contributions to the RTNA, his seminal coverage of the O.J. Simpson trial and his numerous media appearances have left an indelible mark on the world of legal journalism.

In an era where the intersection of law and media is more pronounced than ever, Royal Oakes stands out as a beacon of integrity and knowledge. His career serves as an inspiration to aspiring legal journalists and a reminder of the vital role that informed and insightful commentary plays in our understanding of the law.

It is with great pride that the Board of the Radio & Television News Association of Southern California honors Royal with its Freedom of Information Award. With that also comes a huge thank you to Royal for all the pro bono work he has done on behalf of the RTNA and the press corps of Southern California.





# 2024 RTNA Scholarship Recipients

### GERARDO CHAGOLLA

Senior

### The RTNA Carol Breshears Memorial Scholarship

California State University, Fullerton



Gerardo Chagolla is a senior at Cal State Fullerton majoring in Communications with an emphasis in Journalism. He is passionate about boots-on-the-ground reporting, sports journalism and storytelling. He strives to capture compelling narratives. He serves as the social media producer for the National Association of Hispanic Journalists chapter at Cal State Fullerton.

LINA NARANJO Junior California State University, Fullerton

### The RTNA Jim Zaillian Memorial Scholarship



Lina Naranjo is a junior at Cal State Fullerton, studying Communications with an emphasis in Journalism. Passionate about storytelling, Lina aspires to become an entertainment reporter focusing on uplifting diverse communities and connecting with artists on a personal level to bring their stories to life. In 2024, she had the exciting opportunity to cover the Paris Olympics, with her story being published in The Orange County Register. Outside of her studies and career pursuits, Lina loves spending time with her family and her playful wiener dog, Canela!

# 2024 RTNA Scholarship Recipients

KASEY KAZLINE Sophomore University of Southern California



The RTNA Vin Scully Memorial Scholarship



Kasey Kazliner is a sports broadcaster who splits his time between the Bay Area and Los Angeles. He is sophomore at USC's Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism. He anchors Sports Scene and Annenberg TV News (ATVN) while providing play-by-play commentary on Big Ten Plus, ESPN Plus and KXSC, USC's student radio station. He successfully reinstated the play-by-play role for USC Ice Hockey, earning the Koechling Media Award, and has traveled to call USC football games. Kasey also covers the LA Kings and serves as the official media personality for The Town FC, the minor league affiliate of the San Jose Earthquakes.

ZACHARY GRECH Senior University of La Verne



The RTNA Vin Scully Memorial Scholarship



Zachary Grech is a senior Communications major at The University of La Verne and a former collegiate quarterback. Zachary has transitioned into sports broadcasting, providing play-by-play commentary for a variety of sports, including football, basketball, soccer, volleyball, baseball and softball. With a passion for sports and growing expertise, he is dedicated to honing his skills as he continues to develop in the field.



# Standard of Excellence

What sets the Golden Mikes apart from other competitions is the "Golden Mike Standards of Excellence."

Unlike most awards contests in which winners are determined by selecting which entry is the "best" among all those submitted in each category, winners of the Golden Mike Awards<sup>®</sup> must also meet the "Standard of Excellence."

If the judges decide that no entry in a category meets the "Standard of Excellence" then no award is given in that category.

As a result, Golden Mike Award<sup>®</sup> winners know that their work has been judged to be "excellent" as well as the "best."

For more than 70 years, the Radio & Television News Association of Southern California has promoted excellence in broadcasting journalism through the Golden Mike Awards<sup>®</sup>, and is committed to continuing that legacy into the future.



# SPECTRUM NEWS

CONGRATULATES ALL OF TONIGHT'S FINALISTS AND WINNERS.

SPECTRUM NEWS 1 PROUDLY SUPPORTS THE 75<sup>TH</sup> GOLDEN MIKE AWARDS

# 75th Golden Mike Awards<sup>®</sup> Judges

Heather Allan, Retired Los Angeles Bureau Chief, NBC News Gonzalo Alvarado, Multimedia Content Producer, CNN en Espanol Grayce Arlotta-Berner, Editor, 48 Hours, CBS News Loureen Ayyoub, Reporter, CBS News Volga Santos Beard, Retired Producer, KUVN Univision, Dallas Joel Bellman, Former Editorial Director, KBIG FM, Los Angeles Melody Birkett, Former News Director, iHeart Media, Phoenix Mike Castellucci, Former Reporter, KCBS-TV Los Angeles Salvador Cruz-Fernandez, Assistant News Director, Univision Houston Isis Chaverri, Former News Director, Univision Chicago Jennifer Cobb, Executive Producer, Investigations and Special Projects, KHOU-TV, Houston Johnny Cordob, News Producer, KPNX, Phoenix Steve Dahlman, Former News Writer/Anchor, Rivet Radio, Chicago Dean Elwood, Former Vice President of News, KFMB Stations, San Diego Karen Falla, Former News Reporter, Univision Dallas Eileen Frere, Former Reporter/Orange County Bureau Chief, KABC-TV Andy Friedman, Former Vice President, News/Talk/Sports, Clear Channel Pete Fuentes, Former Producer/Reporter, XETV San Diego, WWOR New York Maria Garcia, Former Reporter, KVEA Telemundo/NBC Universal, Los Angeles Eric Geller, Former Sports Director, Orange County Newschannel Wendy Gillette, TV/Radio News Anchor, CBS News Janice Gin, Former Assistant News Director, KRON-TV, San Francisco Paul Hammons, Retired Videographer/Editor/Head of Graphics Department, NBC Nightly News Liz Artz Hayes, Former Reporter/Anchor, WSB-TV, Atlanta Jim Hattendorf, Retired Producer, KABC-TV Los Angeles Robert Holguin, Former Reporter, ABC7 Los Angeles Michael Horowicz, Former Assistant News Director, KCBS-TV, Los Angeles C.J. Hoyt, News Director, WXIN-TV, Indianapolis Craig Hume, Former News Director, KTLA-TV Los Angeles Marianna Joslyn, Associate Producer/Writer/CBS Reports and 60 Minutes

Maria Elena Jauregui, Former Vice President of News, Azteca America Martha Kattan, Vice President of News/News Director, Univision Houston Julie Kramer, Producer, 48 Hours, CBS News Rob LaFrentz, Reporter, Rivet News Radio, Chicago Jenna Lane, Former Reporter, KCBS Radio, San Francisco Greg Lefevre, Retired Correspondent, CNN Kathy Leverett, Retired Producer, NBC News Fernando Lopez, Former Vice President/General Manager, KVEA-TV/KWHY-TV Los Angeles Rosa Valle Lopez, Former News Editor, KNBC-TV Andy Ludlum, Retired Director of News Programming, KNX 1070 Los Angeles Sandra Maas, Former News Anchor, KUSI-TV, San Diego Steve Malave, Former News Director, Telemundo Sacramento/Fresno Charles Meyerson, Former News Director, WGN Radio, Chicago **Greg Mills**, Former Reporter, KCBS/KCAL Los Angeles Ana Maria Monterov, Former Correspondent, CNN/CNN en Espanol Katherine Murphy, Former Executive Producer, CBS Radio, Chicago Don Norton, News Anchor, WGN Radio, Chicago Mike Oliveira, News Director, WSOC-TV, Charlotte Palmira Perez, Former Anchor/Reporter, Univision San Francisco/LA Jose Rios, Retired News Director, KTTV-TV James Rojas, Reporter, WBZ-AM Boston Greg Russell, Host/Entertainment Reporter, WDIV-TV Detroit Peter Samore, Former Reporter, KTAR FM Phoenix Howard Schoenholtz, Retired Director, ABC NewsOne, Washington, DC Herb Sierra, Former Senior Executive Producer, CNN Headline News Vikki Vargas, Retired Orange County Bureau Chief, KNBC-TV Kathy Walker, News Director, KOA Radio, iHeart Media Denver Jim Watson, Anchor/Reporter/Host, ESPN; Former Play-by-Play, NBC Sports Olympics Coverage Jayme West, Anchor/Reporter, KTAR FM Phoenix



# Show Order of Presentation

### 1. BEST RADIO TRAFFIC REPORT (DIVISION A)

(Nominees)

"KNX Traffic On The 5's" KNX, Los Angeles

"No Go On The 10 In Downtown LA" KFI, Los Angeles

#### 2. BEST TELEVISION WEATHER SEGMENT (DIVISION B)

(Winner)

"Peligros de Una Tormenta Invernal" KFTV, Fresno

### 3. BEST TELEVISION WEATHER SEGMENT (DIVISION A) (Nominees)

"Three Fires Burn in SoCal On The Same Night" KCAL-TV/KCBS-TV, Los Angeles

"Dangerous Winter Storm Warnings" KABC-TV, Los Angeles

"Fire Weather With David Biggar" KNBC, Los Angeles

# **4. BEST VIDEO EDITING OF A FEATURE STORY, SERIES OR SPECIAL (DIVISION B)** *(Nominees)*

**"Joaquin Murrieta: La Leyenda"** KFTV, Fresno

"Old Mission" KEYT-TV, Santa Barbara

**"Transporte Seguro de Campesinos"** KFTV, Fresno

# **5. BEST VIDEO EDITING OF A FEATURE STORY, SERIES OR SPECIAL (DIVISION A)** *(Nominees)*

"The House Of Puerto Rico In Balboa Park" KSWB, San Diego

"Artbound: Chinatown Punk Wars" KOCE-TV/KCET, Los Angeles

"The Issue Is: Father Greg Boyle" KTTV, Los Angeles

# 6. BEST VIDEO EDITING OF A HARD NEWS STORY, SERIES OR SPECIAL (DIVISION A) (Nominees)

"Stop Saving The Planet?" KOCE-TV/KCET, Los Angeles

"**Stolen**" KCBS-TV/KCAL-TV

## 7. BEST NEWS VIDEOGRAPHY OF A FEATURE STORY, SERIES OR SPECIAL (DIVISION B) (*Nominees*)

"Return To Big Creek" KFSN, Fresno

**"The Idea Center"** KEYT-TV, Santa Barbara

### 8. BEST NEWS VIDEOGRAPHY OF A FEATURE STORY, SERIES OR SPECIAL (DIVISION A)

(Winner)

"NISAR, Prepping To Study The Red Planet Via Satellite" KMEX, Los Angeles

# 9. BEST NEWS VIDEOGRAPHY OF A HARD NEWS STORY, SERIES OR SPECIAL (DIVISION A) (Winner)

"Stolen" KCBS-TV/KCAL-TV, Los Angeles

### 10. BEST RADIO USE OF SOUND (ONE DIVISION)

(Nominees)

"Rock Star Makes Risky Journey To Perform In Ukraine" KCLU AM/FM, Thousand Oaks/Santa Barbara

"Scoring Bad Boys: Ride Or Die" KFI, Los Angeles

## 11. BEST RADIO NEWS TALK SHOW OR PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAM (DIVISION A) (Winner)

**"Studio 640"** KFI, Los Angeles

# 12. BEST TELEVISION NEWS PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAM (DIVISION B) (Nominees)

"The Power & Awe Of Music" KLCS, Los Angeles

"Cinco Puntas: A 25 Años de la Tragedia" KFTV, Fresno

"LA Lead Poisoning Crisis" KLCS, Los Angeles

# 13. BEST TELEVISION NEWS PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAM (DIVISION A) (Nominees)

"Inside The Issues With Amrit Singh" Spectrum News 1, Los Angeles

"The Issue Is: Father Greg Boyle" KTTV, Los Angeles

### The **75** th Annual **GOLDEN MIKE AWARDS**<sup>®</sup> Honoring Excellence in Broadcast Journalism

### 14. BEST RADIO LONG FORM PROGRAM OR DOCUMENTARY (DIVISION A)

(Winner)

"Sex, Drugs And Social Media" KFI, Los Angeles

#### 15. BEST RADIO SPECIALTY PROGRAM (ONE DIVISION) (Winner)

**"KNX In Depth"** KNX, Los Angeles

# **16. BEST TELEVISION LONG FORM PROGRAMMING OR DOCUMENTARY (DIVISION B)** (*Nominees*)

"Surviving The Trauma Of Relationship Violence" KLCS, Los Angeles

**"Reporting From Uvalde"** Beach TV News, Cal State Long Beach

"Desafios Estudiantiles: Los Retos de la Educación" KFTV, Fresno

# 17.BEST TELEVISION LONG FORM PROGRAMMING OR DOCUMENTARY (DIVISION A) (Nominees)

"Roots Of Comedy With Jesus Trejo" KOCE-TV/KCET, Los Angeles

"Feast Or Famine: California's Water Crisis" KFSN, Fresno

"Art Happens Here With John Lithgow" KOCE-TV/KCET, Los Angeles

#### 18.BEST TELEVISION SPECIALTY PROGRAM (ONE DIVISION) (Nominees)

**"Tesoros Naturales"** KFTV, Fresno

"Restoring The Salton Sea" KMIR, Palm Springs

"Colleges in Crisis" KNBC, Los Angeles

**19. BEST PODCAST FEATURE REPORTING (DIVISION B)** (Winner)

**"Finding Shipwrecks: A Marine Sanctuary May Help"** KCLU AM/FM, Thousand Oaks/Santa Barbara

20. BEST PODCAST FEATURE REPORTING (DIVISION A) (Winner)

**"Inheriting"** KPCC, Pasadena

### 21. BEST PODCAST NEWS REPORTING (DIVISION B)

(Nominees)

"Associates Degrees Among High School Students" KVPR, Fresno

"Changes In California Juvenile Detention" KCLU AM/FM. Thousand Oaks/Santa Barbara

#### 22. BEST PODCAST NEWS REPORTING (DIVISION A)

(Nominees)

"Inside The Issues: The Podcast-Alex Cohen" Spectrum News 1, Los Angeles

"Speaker Nancy Pelosi's Art Of Power" KTTV, Los Angeles

"Imperfect Paradise: The Gen Z Water Dealmaker" KPCC, Pasadena

## 23. BEST TELEVISION DIGITAL NEWS REPORTING (DIVISION B) (Winner)

"Santa Barbara County Coroner's Office Unsafe For The Living?" KSBY, San Luis Obispo

# 24. BEST TELEVISION DIGITAL NEWS REPORTING (DIVISION A) (Nominees)

"Wheeler North Reef" KOCE-TV/KCET, Los Angeles

"Bold Ink: A Columnist's Life" Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles

"Meet Gascon: The DA You Thought You'd Never Know" KCBS-TV/KCAL-TV, Los Angeles

### 25. BEST TELEVISION DIGITAL BREAKING NEWS REPORTING (DIVISION A) (Nominees)

**"Safe Place For Youth"** KTTV, Los Angeles

"Live Updates On SoCal Wildfires" KNBC, Los Angeles

#### 26. RTNA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR SAM RUBIN

## 27. BEST RADIO INDIVIDUAL WRITING (ONE DIVISION) (Nominees)

"Hauling Water To Bighorn Sheep In Newberry Springs" KCDZ, Twentynine Palms

**"Poop Art"** KNX, Los Angeles

"McDonald's Massacre: California's Deadliest Mass Shooting" KOGO, San Diego

# Order of Presentation

### 28. BEST TELEVISION INDIVIDUAL WRITING (ONE DIVISION)

(Nominees)

"LAX: The Drug Gateway" KABC, Los Angeles

"Lost LA: Tuberculosis" KOCE-TV/KCET, Los Angeles

"The Future Of LA Metro" KLCS, Los Angeles

## 29. BEST RADIO GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL REPORTING (DIVISION B) (Nominees)

"Could A Tax Law Change Ease The Child Care Crisis" KCLU AM/FM, Thousand Oaks/Santa Barbara

"Sexual Assault Survivors Facing Cuts In Support" KCLU AM/FM, Thousand Oaks/Santa Barbara

## **30. BEST TELEVISION GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL REPORTING (DIVISION B)** *(Winner)*

"Kaylin Hayman Al Sexual Abuse" KEYT-TV, Santa Barbara

# **31. BEST TELEVISION GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL REPORTING (DIVISION A)** *(Nominees)*

"Stop Saving The Planet? Politics & The Economy" KOCE-TV/KCET, Los Angeles

"Rough Metro Ride" KCBS-TV/KCAL-TV, Los Angeles

"Accounting & Accountability" KCBS-TV/KCAL-TV, Los Angeles

# 32. BEST RADIO BUSINESS, AND CONSUMER REPORTING (DIVISION B) (Nominees)

"California's Almond Boom And Bust" KVPR, Fresno

"Toilet To Tap? Water Recycling Is Coming To Us" KCLU AM/FM. Thousand Oaks/Santa Barbara

#### 33. BEST TELEVISION BUSINESS, AND CONSUMER REPORTING (DIVISION B)

#### "Contenedores de Metal: Vivienda Asequible" KBNT, San Diego

"El Peluquero Movil" KFTV, Fresno

"2023 City Of Burbank Developments" The Burbank Channel, Burbank

#### 34. BEST TELEVISION BUSINESS, AND CONSUMER REPORTING (DIVISION A)

(Nominees)

"Lost LA: Fast Food And Car Culture" KOCE-TV/KCET, Los Angeles

"Dreams Destroyed: Gold Investment Ends In Losses" KABC-TV, Los Angeles

"Stop Saving The Planet? Big Business And Recycling" KOCE-TV/KCET, Los Angeles

## 35. BEST RADIO ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING (DIVISION B) (Nominees)

"The Cuyama Valley Water Wars" KCSB, Santa Barbara

"Local Fish Scraps Help Our Gardens Thrive" KCLU AM/FM, Thousand Oaks/Santa Barbara

#### 36. BEST RADIO ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING (DIVISION A)

(Winner)

"New Tech Helps Researchers Study Rattlesnakes" KPBS-FM, San Diego

## 37. BEST TELEVISION ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING (DIVISION B) (Nominees)

"New Tech Helps Researchers Study Rattlesnakes" KPBS-TV, San Diego

*"Quail Rescue"* KEYT-TV, Santa Barbara

**"Honey Bee"** KEYT-TV, Santa Barbara

## **38. BEST TELEVISION ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING (DIVISION A)** (*Nominees*)

"Stop Saving The Planet? Eco-Friendly Products" KOCE-TV/KCET, Los Angeles

"Rebuilding On Brownfields" Spectrum News 1, Los Angeles

"Earth Focus: Loving Joshua Tree" KOCE-TV/KCET, Los Angeles

**39. BEST RADIO INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING (DIVISION B)** (Winner)

**"Fresno Police Chief Scandal"** KVPR, Fresno



## 40. BEST TELEVISION INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING (DIVISION B) (Winner)

"Santa Barbara County Coroner's Office Unsafe For The Living?" KSBY, San Luis Obispo

## **41. BEST TELEVISION INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING (DIVISION A)** (*Nominees*)

"LAX: The Drug Gateway" KABC-TV, Los Angeles

**"Falling Behind"** Spectrum News 1, Los Angeles

"Learning About Crime" KCBS-TV, KCAL-TV, Los Angeles

#### 42. LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR JOEL GROVER

#### 43. BEST RADIO MEDICAL AND SCIENCE REPORTING (DIVISION B)

(Winner)

"Seeing Past Blindness" KCLU AM/FM Thousand Oak/Santa Barbara

#### 44. BEST RADIO MEDICAL AND SCIENCE REPORTING (DIVISION A) (Winner)

**"Suicide: Shame/Stigma"** KFI, Los Angeles

## 45. BEST TELEVISION MEDICAL AND SCIENCE REPORTING (DIVISION B) (Winner)

"Explant: Breast Implant Illness" KGET, Bakersfield

**46. BEST TELEVISION MEDICAL AND SCIENCE REPORTING (DIVISION A)** (*Nominees*)

"Hope For Alzheimer's Patients" KCBS-TV/KCAL-TV, Los Angeles

"DNA Testing Company Helping To Solve Chronic Pain" KTTV, Los Angeles

"Killer Bone Graft" KCBS-TV/KCAL-TV, Los Angeles

## 47. BEST RADIO ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING (DIVISION B) (Nominees)

"Classical Music...And The Accordion?" KCLU AM/FM Thousand Oaks/Santa Barbara

"The Arts Helped Her Find Her Voice" KVPR, Fresno

#### 48. BEST RADIO ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING (DIVISION A)

(Winner) "Scoring Bad Boys: Ride Or Die" KFI, Los Angeles

## **49. THE SAM RUBIN AWARD FOR BEST TELEVISION ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING (DIVISION B)** *(Nominees)*

"Passing The Torch: Juneteenth Joy For The People" KEYT-TV, Santa Barbara

"Rags To Riches" KEYT-TV, Santa Barbara

## **50. THE SAM RUBIN AWARD FOR BEST TELEVISION ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING (DIVISION A)** *(Nominees)*

"Outside The Lyrics" KOCE-TV/KCET, Los Angeles

"Artbound: Angel City Press" KOCE-TV/KCET, Los Angeles

"Artbound: Chinatown Punk Wars" KOCE-TV/KCET, Los Angeles

## 51. BEST RADIO SPORTS REPORTING (DIVISION B) (Nominees)

"Cowboys Mania! Dallas Cowboys Fans Flood Oxnard" KCLU AM/FM Thousand Oaks/Santa Barbara

"Ohtani: Tracking The Biggest Deal in MLB History" KLAC, Los Angeles

## 52. BEST RADIO SPORTS REPORTING (DIVISION A) (Winner)

"Tate Carew: His Grind Towards Paris Oscar Gold" KOGO, San Diego

#### 53. BEST TELEVISION SPORTS REPORTING (DIVISION B) (Nominees)

"Boundless Athletes" KEYT

**"Talentos del Valle"** KFTV, Fresno

"Brothers In Basketball" KBAK/KBFX, Bakersfield

## Order of Presentation

#### 54. BEST TELEVISION SPORTS REPORTING (DIVISION A)

(Nominees)

**"Tyler Glasnow Returns To Hart High"** KTTV, Los Angeles

"Curt Flood And the Fight For Free Agency" Spectrum News 1, Los Angeles

"Orange County Lascross Coach Battles ALS" KCBS-TV/KCAL-TV, Los Angeles

55. BEST RADIO SPORTSCAST (DIVISION B) (Winner)

"KMJ Morning Sports With George Takata" KMJ, Fresno

## 56. BEST TELEVISION SPORTSCAST (DIVISION B) (Winner)

"KEYT Sports With Mike Klan" KEYT-TV, Santa Barbara

## 57. BEST TELEVISION SPORTSCAST (DIVISION A) (Nominees)

"KTLA Sports" KTLA, Los Angeles

"Sueño Irrepetible-The Unrepeatable Dream" KVEA, Los Angeles

"Sports Central With Darren M. Haynes" KCBS-TV/KCAL-TV, Los Angeles

#### 58. RTNA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR ROB FUKUZAKI

## **59. BEST RADIO FEATURE NEWS SERIES REPORTING (ONE DIVISION)** (Nominees)

**"Suicide: Stigma/Shame"** KFI, Los Angeles

**"After Oil: California's Big Bet"** KVPR, Fresno

## **60. BEST RADIO LIGHT FEATURE REPORTING-LESS THAN ONE MINUTE (ONE DIVISION)** *(Winner)*

"Kids Have Fun While Learning About Peace" KCLU AM/FM, Thousand Oaks/Santa Barbara



## ANGELS BASEBALL CONGRATULATES





## Order of Presentation

#### 61. BEST RADIO LIGHT FEATURE REPORTING-ONE MINUTE OR LONGER (ONE DIVISION)

(Nominees)

"USPS: Processing The Holidays" KFI, Los Angeles

"Musical Bridge: Finding Art In Unexpected Places" KPBS-FM, San Diego

"Learning The Ways Of The Jedi" KNX, Los Angeles

## 62. BEST TELEVISION LIGHT FEATURE REPORTING, TEN MINUTES OR LESS (DIVISION B) (Nominees)

**"Fortaleciendo la Fe"** KFTV, Fresno

**"Old Mission"** KEYT-TV, Santa Barbara

"Joya de Granito en el Corazón de Sequoia" KFTV, Fresno

## 63. BEST TELEVISION LIGHT FEATURE REPORTING, TEN MINUTES OR LESS (DIVISION A) (Nominees)

"Black Men Hike" KCBS-TV/KCAL-TV, Los Angeles

"LAFD Chief: Chasing Chief Crowley" KTTV, Los Angeles

**"A Beautiful Mind"** Spectrum News 1, Los Angeles

"The Kathy Fiscus Tragedy: 75 Years Later" KTLA, Los Angeles

## 64. BEST TELEVISION LIGHT NEWS SERIES REPORTING (ONE DIVISION) (Nominees)

"Let's Go Places: A Popular Politician With Paws" KCBS-TV/KCAL-TV, Los Angeles

"LA Stories With Giselle Fernandez: Adam Nimoy" Spectrum News 1, Los Angeles

**"Jen At Work"** KTTV, Los Angeles

## 65. BEST RADIO SERIOUS FEATURE REPORTING-ONE MINUTE OR LONGER (ONE DIVISION) (Winner)

"The McDonald's Massacre: California's Worst Mass Shooting" KOGO, San Diego

#### 66.BEST TELEVISION SERIOUS FEATURE REPORTING, FIVE MINUTES OR LESS (DIVISION B) (Nominees)

"Students Privacy Rights Versus Parental Notifications" KPBS-TV, San Diego

"Luchando Contra Corriente" KBNT, San Diego

"Sex Trafficking Of Minors: A Survivor's Story" KSBY, San Luis Obispo

## 67. BEST TELEVISION SERIOUS FEATURE REPORTING, FIVE MINUTES OR LESS (DIVISION A) (Nominees)

"An Oceanfront Injustice" KNBC, Los Angeles

"Earth Focus: Desert Ravens & Indigenous Traditions" KOCE-TV/KCET, Los Angeles

"Lost LA: Tuberculosis" KOCE-TV/KCET, Los Angeles

## 68. BEST TELEVISION SERIOUS FEATURE REPORTING, LONGER THAN FIVE MINUTES (DIVISION B) (*Nominees*)

"New VA Clinic Battle" KBAK/KBFX, Bakersfield

"Humanitarian Support Brigade" AMGA TV, Glendale

"The Blade: Exploited Children On The Edge" KGET, Bakersfield

## 69. BEST TELEVISION SERIOUS FEATURE REPORTING, LONGER THAN FIVE MINUTES (DIVISION A) (Nominees)

"Meet The Father Of Birth Control" Spectrum News 1, Los Angeles

"Earth Focus: YTT Tribe Reclaims Diablo Canyon Land" KOCE-TV/KCET, Los Angeles

"Noah's Story" KNBC, Los Angeles

#### 70. BEST TELEVISION HARD NEWS SERIES REPORTING (ONE DIVISION)

(Nominees)

"Lessons On Crime, Accountability, And Punishment" KCBS-TV/KCAL-TV, Los Angeles

"Return To Maui: Loss, Trauma, An Uncertain Future" KABC-TV, Los Angeles

"Menendez Brother: Justice Served Or Misjudged" KTLA, Los Angeles



#### 71. RTNA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR PETE DEMETRIOU

## 72. BEST RADIO NEWS REPORTING (DIVISION B) (Nominees)

"Ofland Development Group Meets With Neighbors" KCDZ, Twentynine Palms

"Socialite Who Killed Two Young Boys Goes To Prison" KCLU AM/FM, Thousand Oaks/Santa Barbara

## 73. BEST RADIO NEWS REPORTING (DIVISION A) (Winner)

"Federal Searches At Orange County Supervisor's Home" KPCC, Pasadena

#### 74. BEST TELEVISION NEWS REPORTING (DIVISION B)

(Nominees)

"Historic Havilah Burns" KGET, Bakersfield

"LA Lead Poisoning Crisis" KLCS, Los Angeles

"The Future Of LA Metro" KLCS, Los Angeles

#### 75. BEST TELEVISION NEWS REPORTING (DIVISION A) (Nominees)

"LAX: The Drug Gateway" KABC-TV, Los Angeles

"Man Shares Survival Story After Being Thrown From RV" KTLA, Los Angeles

"Beverly Glen's Bluthner" KNBC, Los Angeles

#### 76. BEST NEWS REPORTING BY A CABLE OR BROADCAST NETWORK

(Nominees)

"De Peregrinación A Caos: Atrapada En Una Guerra" Voz de America

"LA Sheriff Recruit's Death Family Experience" Univision Network

"Young Kidnapped Girl Reunited With Her Mom" Univision Network

## 77 THE JEFF BAUGH AWARD FOR BEST TELEVISION AIRBORNE COVERAGE (Winner)

"Dangerous Pursuit: Chase Ends In Wrong Way Crash" KABC-TV, Los Angeles

## 78. BEST RADIO "LIVE" COVERAGE OF A NEWS STORY (DIVISION B) (Winner)

"Ventura County Hit By Thousand Year Storm" KCLU AM/FM, Thousand Oaks/Santa Barbara

## 79. BEST RADIO "LIVE" COVERAGE OF A NEWS STORY (DIVISION A) (Nominees)

"Campus Chaos" KNX, Los Angeles

"Wrong Way On The Westside" KNX, Los Angeles

## 80. BEST TELEVISION "LIVE" COVERAGE OF A NEWS STORY (DIVISION A) (Nominees)

"USC Campus Unrest" KCBS-TV/KCAL-TV, Los Angeles

#### "Protests Disrupt SoCal Colleges And Universities" KABC-TV, Los Angeles

"UCLA Arrests" KCBS-TV/KCAL-TV, Los Angeles

#### 81. BEST RADIO CONTINUING COVERAGE (DIVISION B)

(Winner)

"Monster Storm Hits Tri-Counties" KCLU AM/FM, Thousand Oaks/Santa Barbara

#### 82. BEST RADIO CONTINUING COVERAGE (DIVISION A)

(Nominees)

"Wrong Way Madness" KNX, Los Angeles

"Biden Drops Out" KNX, Los Angeles

#### 83. BEST TELEVISION CONTINUING COVERAGE (DIVISION B) (Winner)

"Camino A La Muerte" KFTV, Fresno

#### 84. BEST TELEVISION CONTINUING COVERAGE (DIVISION A) (Nominees)

"Police Move In To Clear UCLA Protestors" KTTV, Los Angeles

"Triple Threat: Three Wildfires Rage Simultaneously" KABC-TV, Los Angeles

"Diddy Mansion Raid In Holmby Hills" KTTV, Los Angeles



## Order of Presentation

#### 85. BEST RADIO NEWSCAST UNDER 15 MINUTES (DIVISION B)

*(Winner)* **"Fresno's Morning News"** KMJ, Fresno

## 86. BEST RADIO NEWSCAST UNDER 15 MINUTES (DIVISION A) (Nominees)

**"KFI News"** KFI, Los Angeles

**"KOGO News"** KOGO, San Diego

"KFI News At 1 With Debra Mark" KFI, Los Angeles

#### 87. BEST RADIO NEWSCAST OVER 15 MINUTES (DIVISION A) (Winner)

"LA's Morning News" KNX, Los Angeles

#### 88. BEST RADIO WEEKEND NEWSCAST (ONE DIVISION)

(Nominees)

"Weekend News Z107.7FM" KCDZ, Twentynine Palms

**"KOGO News With Phil Farrar"** KOGO, San Diego

## **89. BEST TELEVISION DAYTIME NEWSCAST AIRING BETWEEN MIDNIGHT AND 4 PM (DIVISION A)** (*Nominees*)

"ABC7 Eyewitness News at 6AM" KABC-TV, Los Angeles

**"Good Day LA"** KTTV, Los Angeles

"Noticiero Telemundo 52 Al Medio Dia" KVEA, Los Angeles

#### 90. BEST TELEVISION WEEKEND NEWSCAST (ONE DIVISION)

(Nominees)

"NBC4 News At 6PM" KNBC, Los Angeles

"KTTV Weekend News At 10 PM" KTTV, Los Angeles

"ABC7 Eyewitness News At 11 PM" KABC-TV, Los Angeles

#### 91. BEST TELEVISION NEWSCAST 30 MINUTES OR LESS, AIRING BETWEEN 4 P.M. AND MIDNIGHT (DIVISION A) (Nominees)

"ABC7 Eyewitness News At 11 PM" KABC-TV, Los Angeles

"Good Nite LA" KTTV, Los Angeles

"NBC4 News At 7PM" KNBC, Los Angeles

## 92. BEST TELEVISION NEWSCAST 60 MINUTES OR LESS, AIRING BETWEEN 4 P.M. AND MIDNIGHT (DIVISION A)

(Nominees) "NBC4 News At 4 PM"

KNBC, Los Angeles

"KTLA 5 News At 10" KTLA, Los Angeles

"ABC7 Eyewitness News At 4PM" KABC-TV, Los Angeles



## 74th Golden Mike Awards® Celebration























































TNA











Official Photographer Mark Mennie

#### The **75** th Annual GOLDEN MIKE AWARDS<sup>®</sup> Honoring Excellence in Broadcast Journalism

## 76th Golden Mike Awards®

## 2025 – 2026 Calendar

#### Designated News Week

Monday, May 19 to Friday, May 23

#### Designated News Weekend

Saturday, May 24 and Sunday, May 25

#### **GMA** Contest Period

September 21, 2024 to September 20, 2025

#### Early Entry Begins

Monday, August 18

#### Early Entry Deadline

Friday, September 26, 2025 at 11:59 PM

#### Late Entry Deadline

Friday, October 3, 2025 at 11:59 PM

#### Judging Begins

Friday, October 10

## January, 2026

Finalists & Winners Announcement

#### March, 2026

76th Golden Mike Awards®



# HOW TO GET **'THE BIG STORY'** IN ORANGE COUNTY

By Vikki Vargas

Remember that scene in the movie *Shrek*? Where Donkey obnoxiously jumps up and down and says "Pick me! Pick me!" I think it's a meme now.

As the Orange County Bureau reporter, that describes how I often felt in the morning planning meeting. There was the sense the other reporters had an advantage because they were in the building talking to the News Director. It was the truth, at first. But as

the years progressed, it was not.

For example, when the helicopter carrying Kobe Bryant crashed killing everyone aboard, eight of the nine were from Orange County. Enter the OC Bureau reporter.

There were memorials for young girls carried live from Newport Beach. A Costa Mesa college baseball game played in honor of a coach and his daughter. An overflow crowd in Irvine watching the Staples Center feed of Bryant's memorial.

These are the moments that can't be planned, the moments when news comes to the bureau.

It was the same during the O.J. Simpson murder trial. I was in Russia during the slow-speed chase and actually read about it from Moscow. When we landed at LAX, the headline in the LA Times showed the most fantastical photo of a white Bronco.

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**COMES TO THE BUREAU."** 

There was a satellite truck parked nearby. I spied camera lights, a TV crew and a crying family being interviewed. Who were they? Nicole Brown Simpson's family.

A day later, I was dining at a Dana Point restaurant.

Turns out the Brown's were neighbors of a long-time family friend who opened the door for me and much of the access that followed.

If I didn't live in the OC, didn't have friends, neighbors

and contacts countywide, I would have missed out on a lot of stories.

When Simpson died, I reached out again to the family friend. I'd already retired, but the journalistic DNA is still in me. We did a

Zoom that put me back on TV in Palm Springs and in Los Angeles.

Four decades later, this former bureau reporter realizes getting the "big story" was never based on who has the News Director's ear. It's based on how well one has cultivated contacts, connections, and the randomness of geography.

Vikki Vargas covered Orange County for NBCLA from 1984 until her retirement in 2022. She was awarded a Lifetime Achievement award from the Southern California RTNA in 2023. Currently, Vargas consults as a content advisor for local television stations.



KOBE BRYANT MEMORIAL

**OJ SIMPSON TRIAI** 

## It's not good news when you hear it...

# Loyd "Sig" Sigmon and the Birth of SigAlerts in Los Angeles

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It's a term you hear frequently in California traffic reports, and it's not good news when you hear it, especially when you are in a hurry to get somewhere. A SigAlert means major problems on a freeway or highway. Did you know that the dreaded warning about traffic issues is actually named after its creator?

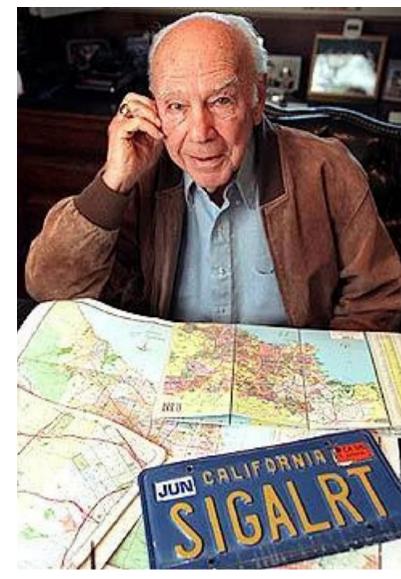
What we now know as SigAlerts date back to the 1950s in Los Angeles. There was an effort to develop an early warning system during the Cold War so officials could send an alert over the air with emergency information. It was long before the current Emergency Alert System was created for radio and television stations.

The man behind it was Loyd C. "Sig" Sigmon, who was Executive Vice President of Golden West Broadcasters, which owned KMPC Radio (AM 710) in Los Angeles. During World War II, he worked in the Army's communications division and had extensive knowledge about radio systems. Government officials weren't interested. But Sigmon had another idea.

With LA's car culture taking off, there was a spike in traffic congestion and traffic accidents. Radio stations began reporting traffic conditions. However, to get the information, stations would call the Los Angeles Police Department. Frustrated officers had to constantly repeat the same information to stations.

Sigmon developed a special radio receiver that was linked to a reel-to-reel tape recorder. When a specific tone was transmitted, it would trigger the recorder, which would then record the bulletin being transmitted. There was a red light and buzzer to let station engineers know a report was arriving.

Los Angeles Police Chief William Parker was skeptical, but he was willing to give the system a



**Loyd Sigmon** with his personalized license plate. (*Photo: Bob Carey. Courtesy of Los Angeles Times*)

# "We're going to name the damn thing SigAlert."

—William Parker, Los Angeles Police Chief

try. He insisted that it couldn't be a KMPC monopoly and had to be made available to all radio stations. A half dozen stations installed the systems.

As for the name, legend has it that Parker said, "We're going to name the damn thing SigAlert" after its inventor. It quickly proved its worth. But one of the first times the system was used, it caused a traffic jam. A passenger train derailed near Union Station. The system was used to call for all available doctors and nurses to go to the scene to help. The area was quickly swamped by medical personnel.

The system was initially used by the LAPD, but soon other agencies called in emergency messages they wanted to get out to the public. In 1963, it was used to warn people that the Baldwin Hills Dam was about to collapse. While there were five deaths, thousands of people were able to evacuate the area safely. In 1969, the CHP took responsibility for freeway traffic in LA, and it took over the SigAlert system. It limited its use to traffic emergencies. The CHP implemented the system statewide.

Most radio stations now get the traffic information from the CHP's website. CalTrans also uses the term SigAlert. So, what constitutes a SigAlert? An event considered worthy of a SigAlert is a traffic incident expected to tie up a lane or more of a highway or freeway for more than 30 minutes.

Loyd Sigmon probably never imagined his idea would become a part of the landscape for California commuters. Then again, no one a half century ago probably imagined a day when we'd have freeways with 10 traffic lanes, which, despite their size, would still be filled with bumper-to-bumper traffic.



One of the very first **"SigAlerts"** followed the worst train wreck in city history, triggered by a passenger train that had departed Union Station and derailed at Redondo Junction, southwest of Boyle Heights. The accident killed 30 people and injured 117. (*Image courtesy of Los Angeles Fire Department Historical Archive*)



Flooding on the 5 Freeway triggers a **SigAlert**. (*Photo courtesy of KTLA*)



Snow on the Grapevine warrants a **SigAlert**. (Photo: Al Seib. Courtesy of Los Angeles Times)









## The Funny Side of Serving the RTNA By Carolyn Fox

#### After serving as Executive Director of RTNA for 36 years,

I saw the Board ably handle many important issues. However, there were some that made us chuckle.

One that immediately comes to mind was the design of the Golden Mike. Almost everyone had an opinion. After an evening of discussions, some very heated, a concession was made and the design was adopted. If you notice, the base on the Golden Mike was wide at the top and narrow on the bottom. The trophy company had suggested a wide base and narrow top triangle. We have the opposite of most trophies.

We had a firm delivery time for delivery of the Golden Mike entries to my house. Invariably, some stations were late. Mundane excuses varied from heavy traffic, flat tire, etc. However, KMEX won for the best late excuse. There was a gunman in the lobby and they couldn't leave the building.

RTNA was in the forefront of arranging radio, TV and network pools for important events. The first was for the visit of Pope John Paul II in 1987. Everything went smoothly with much appreciation from the news agencies and the Archdiocese. This was a good test-run for the many courtroom pools to follow.

Of course, we have to mention the O.J. trial. Although very serious and lots of hard work, we did manage to have a few laughs, too.

While setting up the trucks at Camp O.J., Fox put an anchor position on top of their truck facing the courtroom. They figured they would have a slightly different view than their competition. NBC saw this and also placed their anchor on top of their truck higher, of course, than Fox. ABC was not to be denied and they did the same, only, of course, higher than the other two. CBS, not to be outdone, had their anchor's position higher than all the others. It didn't actually wave in the breeze, but it was very, very high. When their anchor arrived from New York, he took one look at it and said that this was earthquake country and he wasn't about to climb up to that precarious position. CBS rented office space across the street from the courthouse for the background of the anchor.

A lot of other annoying events occurred at Camp O.J. After the trial started, everyone arrived in the morning and there was no feed from the courthouse. We were very fortunate that there was an underground tunnel leading from the courthouse to Camp O.J. which allowed us to use it for the wires. However, copper wires were very valuable and someone sneaked in during the night and stole them. We unexpectedly had to hire a guard on each side of the street 24/7 to protect the feed.

RTNA became famous for being the first organization to organize pools for the stations and networks. A Yale legal magazine ran a story about our efforts. I received a lot of calls from all over the country asking for details about our procedures. However, I had no solution for a problem from a station in Alaska: They wanted to know how to fairly arrange a pool in a two-man airplane!

The RTNA Congratulates All the Nominees, Winners and Participants in the 75th Annual Golden Mike Awards<sup>®</sup>



**Radio & Television News Association of Southern California** 

Congratulations SAG-AFTRA members **Pete Demetriou** Rob Fukuzaki Joel Grover and all the **Golden Mike Awards** honorees!

