



## **NEWS RELEASE**

NCAB Honors Four North Carolina Broadcasters

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RALEIGH, NC, (June 25, 2014) – The North Carolina Association of Broadcasters (NCAB) at its Annual Convention Monday night in Durham, NC awarded four outstanding North Carolina media executives for their contributions to broadcasting and to the state of North Carolina.

### **2014 NCAB Distinguished Service Award**

Gary Weiss is a 36-year radio veteran and the Regional Vice President for Radio One's stations in Raleigh/Durham and Charlotte. He also serves as the day-to-day General Manager of the Raleigh stations, which are K97.5, Foxy 107.1/104.3 and The Light 103.9.

He started his radio career as an Account Executive at WWWW-FM in his hometown of Cleveland, Ohio. He continued in Sales and Sales Management at stations in Miami, Fort Lauderdale and Tampa.

Gary came to North Carolina in 1986 and held Vice President/General Manager positions in Raleigh, then in Greensboro/Winston-Salem.

He returned to Raleigh in 2000 to assume the VP/GM position for Radio One following the acquisition of the stations from Clear Channel.

Gary has been a member of the Board of Directors of NCAB since 2003 and for the past seven years has served as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Association.

He has also has served on the Board of Directors of the Raleigh Chamber of Commerce.

### **2014 NCAB Hall of Fame Award**

Mark Prak, a partner at Brooks, Pierce, McLendon, Humphrey and Leonard, Raleigh, began his legal career representing media companies as a young lawyer immediately following his graduation Magna Cum Laude from Duke Law School in 1980.

Mark has served as legal counsel to the North Association of Broadcasters with distinction for many years, and has provided counsel to a wide range of media companies throughout the country. He has represented North Carolina broadcasters before the Federal Communications Commission, the U.S. Congress, state and federal courts and the North Carolina General Assembly.

Throughout his extensive career, Mark has received many honors including being recognized as a member of the "Legal Elite" by *Business North Carolina* magazine (2014), *The Best Lawyers in America*, and he was named North Carolina Litigator of the Year by *Benchmark Litigation* in 2012.

In addition to practicing law, Mark has taught Telecommunications Law and Public Policy at Duke University's Sanford Institute for Public Policy Sciences and at Duke Law School for 19 years and has contributed countless hours in service to his profession, to the broadcast industry, his church and his community.

### **2014 NCAB Hall of Fame Award**

Longtime WRAL-TV sports anchor and reporter Tom Suiter has been an integral part of high school sports coverage for WRAL-TV since joining the station 43 years ago. For his first 10 years, Tom anchored weekends, early morning newscasts, coach's shows and early morning radio.

In 1981, Tom launched *Football Friday* (a half-hour show). On a typical Friday night during the fall 2013 football season, Tom showed highlights from 28 different games. Also in the same year, Tom started handing out the "Extra Effort Award" which WRAL-TV gives weekly to an outstanding high school student athlete. To this day, Tom visits a high school each week during the school year to recognize a student with his signature award. He has now presented over 900 of the awards.

Tom has won two Regional Emmys; he was awarded the *Order of the Long Leaf Pine* by the Governor of North Carolina; he received the *Distinguished Service Award* from the National Federation of Interscholastic Coaches Association; and was honored by the Triangle Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame. In 1987, he was named one of the top three sportscasters in the United States by *Television Radio Age* magazine. Tom was inducted into the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame in 2012. In 2013, he was honored by his hometown of Rocky Mount, NC with induction into the Twin County Hall of Fame which honors notable natives of Edgecombe and Nash counties.

Despite stepping aside from his role as weeknight sports anchor in 2008, Tom continues his long tradition of bringing viewers the highlights from high school football games on his *Football Friday* show and presenting high school athletes with the Extra Effort Award.

### **2014 Wade H. Hargrove Community Leadership Award**

Over the years, Gig Hilton of Davidson County Broadcasting, which owns Stations WLXN and WWLV, Lexington, has dedicated his time to the youth of his hometown in their pursuit of education and educational opportunities. Gig also encourages, mentors and teaches young people about the game of golf, its rules and etiquette. He has spent many hours mentoring local youth interested in developing their golf game as well as been a reference for them as

they pursue golf opportunities on a collegiate level. Gig was also the Davidson County high school women's golf coach in the mid 1990's.

Gig and his two stations hosted annual fundraisers for the Harold Bowen Scholarship Foundation, where funds are also raised for a local scholarship for high school athletes looking to continue their interest in athletics as they enter college. Gig's radio stations also provide a literacy program to local elementary and intermediate schools throughout Davidson County. The radio stations' staff, as well as sponsors, in partnership with the public library read each week to students as well as make a donation to the school's library. Gig is a strong advocate and role model for his staff and encourages them to assist local students and their interests in education.

Gig and Davidson Country Broadcast are also active with the Annual Toys for Tots, the Salvation Army and the American Red Cross.

Gig has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Association of Broadcasters since 2008 and was Vice President of Radio in 2009.

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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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