

Vermont Association of Broadcasters

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GENE PUFFER

1929 - 2014



The VAB sends its deepest condolences to the family and many friends of Hall of Fame member Gene Puffer.

Puffer passed away November 30 at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center after a long illness.

He was born in Haverhill, NH in 1929 and graduated from Groton High School, attended Arnold College in Milford, CT and later graduated from the Career Academy School of Broadcasters.

He first worked at WLTV-AM in Littleton, NH and then WCVR-AM in Randolph. In 1976 he joined brothers George and Harold and son Stephen in forming Puffer Brothers Broadcasting.

They started WYKR-AM (now WTWN-AM) in Haverhill and Wells River. In 1988, they added an FM signal and moved the WYKR call sign to it.

Gene hosted the morning show for more than two decades and broadcast hundreds of high school sporting events. He was also the longtime voice of Norwich University football.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Clara. He is also survived by his son Stephen and two daughters, Deborah and Rebecca.

RECORD CROWD AT VAB AWARDS BANQUET

Nearly 300 broadcasters and friends of broadcasters were on hand December 6 at the Burlington Hilton for the 20th annual VAB Awards Banquet.

Gov. Peter Shumlin saluted the Hall of Fame inductees, including WTSA's Tim Johnson. The Governor half-joked that he had grown up listening to Johnson report the news in Windham County. Johnson was later presented his Hall of Fame trophy by WTSA owner and GM Kelli Corbeil.

Former VAB President Candis Leopold and longtime WCAX-TV Adirondack Bureau Chief Jack LaDuke joined Johnson in this year's Hall of Fame class.

LaDuke was introduced by Hall of Fame member Marselis Parsons of WCAX fame, while Leopold was introduced with a video tribute from Ed Flanagan, Lynn Beaudoin and Hall of Famer Dan Dubonnet.

Roger Hess of WVNY-TV/WFFF-TV was presented with the 2014 Broadcaster of the Year Award by news anchor Lauren Maloney.

Rod Hill of WOKO presented a Distinguished Service Award to longtime colleague Thom Richards, while former morning show partner Gary Sadowsky presented the Distinguished Service Award to Judy Simpson of WCAX.

WCAX Chief Photographer Jim Oliver was presented with the inaugural Snyder-Teffner Award for excellence behind the scenes.

The Alan Noyes Community Service Award was presented to WGLY-The Light Radio Network, while WEZF (Star 92.9) and Mitch Terricciano of WIZN were also saluted for their community service work.

Our next big event will be the 60th Annual VAB Convention, which will be held this May in Montpelier and will feature the Commercial of the Year Awards. Entry details coming soon!



From top: Hall of Fame inductees Tim Johnson, Candis Leopold and Jack LaDuke. Photos by Jay Austin.

MORE BANQUET PHOTOS



From top: Jim Oliver with the VAB's Wendy Mays and Alex Martin; Gary Sadowsky and Judy Simpson; Thom Richards gets his trophy; Mitch Terricciano and Jennifer Foxx; Broadcaster of the Year Roger Hess; Sean Troland receives the Alan Noyes Award from Jon Noyes, Alex and Wendy. Photos by Jay Austin.

FCC Looks to Expand Online Files to Radio, Cable and Satellite; Seeks Comments

By Lauren Lynch Flick, Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP



December 18, the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking proposing that broadcast radio licensees, satellite TV/radio licensees, and cable system operators move the bulk of their public inspection files online. The FCC previously adopted an online public file requirement for broadcast TV, and sees this as the logical next step.

Specifically, the FCC proposes to require entities to upload only documents that are not already on file with the FCC or for which the FCC does not maintain its own database; and exempt existing political file material from the online file requirement and instead require that political file documents be uploaded only on a going-forward basis.

While the FCC indicates it is not generally interested in modifying the content of public inspection files in this proceeding, it does propose some new or modified public inspection file requirements, including:

- requiring broadcast radio, satellite TV/radio, and cable system operators to post online the location and contact information for their local public file;
- requiring cable system operators to provide information about the geographic areas they serve; and clarifying the documents required to be kept in the cable public file.

With respect to broadcast radio, the proposed online public file rule would require stations to upload all documents required to be in the public file that are not also filed in CDBS (or LMS) or otherwise available at the FCC's website.

The FCC "recognize[s] that some radio stations may face financial or other obstacles that could make the transition to an online public file more difficult." In response, the FCC proposes to begin the transition to an online public file with commercial stations in the top 50 markets that have five or more full-time employees; initially exempt, for two years, non-commercial educational (NCE) radio stations, as well as stations with fewer than five full-time employees from all online public file requirements and permit exempted stations to voluntarily transition to an online public file early.

Comments will be due 30 days after publication of the NPRM in the Federal Register and reply comments will be due 30 days thereafter.

(For the full blog entry and more news and commentary, visit <http://www.commlawcenter.com/>)