

Vermont Association of  
Broadcasters

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July,  
2018



CHARLES ALLEN ADAMS  
1938 - 2018



One of Vermont's first FM disc jockeys has passed away. Chuck Adams was 80 years old.

A native of Middlebury, Adams was working at Burlington's WJOY-AM in 1962 when WJOY-FM went on the air as Vermont's first commercial FM station. The station is now WOKO-FM, where Adams' nephew Rod Hill is a longtime morning show host.

Adams moved to WVNY-TV in 1969, where he served as their Production Director.

After his broadcasting career, Adams moved from the Vermont National Guard to a full-time Army job, eventually retiring with the rank of Major.

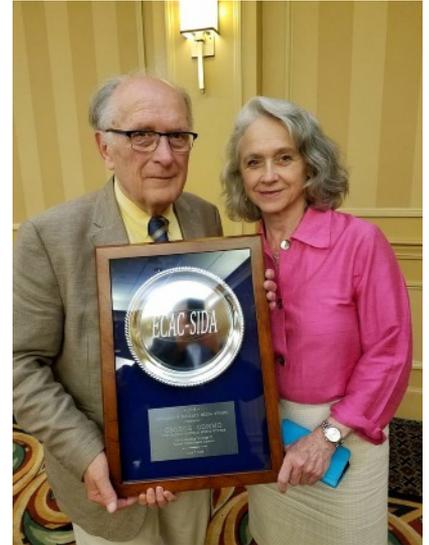
He is survived by his wife of 28 years Deborah LaTona Adams (nee Graves), two sons, three stepsons and ten grandchildren.

Gifts in his memory may be sent to support Dr. Jeff Meyer's Cancer Research at the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center. Please make checks payable to Johns Hopkins University, Kimmel Cancer Center, PO Box 17029 Baltimore, MD 21297-1029.

## BROADCAST HONORS FOR CARROLL AND COMMO



Joe Carroll



George Commo with wife Dot

Two well-known Vermont broadcasters were recently honored by their peers.

On June 2, WCAX-TV chief photographer and reporter Joe Carroll was honored in Boston with a New England Emmy Award for his weekly "Super Seniors" feature. The series celebrates the lives and ongoing accomplishments of remarkable senior citizens. The series won an Emmy in the "Light Series" category.

On June 7, VAB Hall of Fame sportscaster George Commo added a new award to his trophy case. He was presented with the prestigious Monahan & Wallace ECAC-SIDA Media Award "for outstanding coverage of eastern intercollegiate athletics."

Former winner Ted Ryan presented the award to George. Other previous winners include Marv Albert and VAB Hall of Fame member Tony Adams. [Learn more about George Commo here.](#)

## SUBMIT YOUR HALL OF FAME & OTHER AWARD NOMINATIONS

It's easy to make nominations for the VAB Hall of Fame and our other major annual awards! [Follow this link](#) to make your award nominations now. On our nomination page, you'll find criteria used to select our winners in these categories:

- Hall of Fame
- Broadcaster of the Year
- Alan Noyes Community Service Award
- Snyder-Teffner Award for Excellence behind the scenes
- Distinguished Service Awards



But don't wait too long - nominations must be received by September 7, 2018.

## JULY REGULATORY DATES AND MORE



*By David Oxenford, Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP*

July brings the obligation for each full-power broadcaster to add a new Quarterly Issues Programs List to their online public inspection file. These reports, summarizing the issues facing each station's community of license in

the prior three months and the programs broadcast by the station to address those issues, must be added to the public file by July 10. These reports are very important - as they are the only documents legally required by the FCC to show how a station served the public interest. With the online file, these reports can be reviewed by anyone with an Internet connection at any time, which could be particularly concerning for any station that does not meet the filing deadline, especially with license renewals beginning again next year.

Also to be filed with the FCC by July 10, by full-power and Class A TV stations, are Quarterly Children's Television Reports. While the FCC announced last week that it will be considering a rulemaking proposal at its July meeting to potentially change the rules (see its proposed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking [here](#)), for now the requirements remain in place obligating each station to broadcast 3 weekly hours of programming designed to meet the educational and informational needs of children for each free program stream transmitted by the station. Also, certifications need to be included in each station's online public file demonstrating that the station has complied with the rules limiting the amount of commercialization during children's television programs.

In addition to considering the Children's Television Rules at its July 12th meeting, the FCC will also be looking at how it can modify its EAS system to avoid the kinds of erroneous emergency messages that have been transmitted in recent months - most notably the alert for a missile attack on Hawaii a few months ago. The FCC will adopt certain changes immediately, as well as advancing additional proposals for rule changes. The draft FCC order on EAS changes is available [here](#).

Due on July 20th are comments on a petition to change the interference standards that apply to LPFM stations (proposing a change from the current mileage separation requirements to a system like FM translators, based on interference considerations) and to allow some of those stations to operate with higher power. Preliminary comments on these issues may be important in guiding the FCC on whether to proceed with a further rulemaking. The FCC notice of the acceptance of that rulemaking proposal is [here](#).

(David Oxenford is the author of [Broadcast Law Blog](#).)

## PAI KIDS THREATENED OVER NET RULES



Ajit Pai

*Politico* reports a California man was arrested in May after allegedly threatening to kill FCC Chairman Ajit Pai's children over the issue of net neutrality.

Prosecutors say 33-year-old Markara Man of Norwalk, California was angry over the repeal of net neutrality regulations. They say he sent three emails to Pai last December. In an email sent to Pai on December 20, Man listed three preschools in the Arlington, Virginia area and wrote, "I will find your children and I will kill them," according to the affidavit.

Man has been charged with threatening to murder an immediate family member of a U.S. official.

### Clear Sailing for Starks Nomination to FCC



Geoffrey Starks

The Senate Commerce Committee last week gave unanimous approval for the nomination of Geoffrey Starks to succeed Mignon Clyburn as one of two Democratic appointees to the FCC.

Starks was nominated June 1 by President Donald Trump. The nomination now goes to the full Senate for confirmation. Starks currently serves as the Assistant Bureau Chief in the FCC's Enforcement Bureau.

The FCC has five commissioners (only three of which can be of the same party), each of whom serve five-year terms, and are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate

### First Amendment Workshop Offered in Boston

Applications for fellowships to the 2018 New England First Amendment Institute are due Aug. 1. This eighth annual institute will be held from Sept. 16-18 at Northeastern University in Boston.

The New England First Amendment Coalition provides the three-day investigative journalism workshop each year at no cost to 25 journalists working within the region. It features many of the country's elite investigative reporters, editors and media attorneys.

More information about the institute including application materials can be found at <http://nefac.org/nefai-2018/>.