

-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-



**CONNECTICUT BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES
2026 AWARD WINNERS OF CBA & HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES**
AWARDS HONOR EXCELLENCE AND PERFORMANCE IN RADIO AND TELEVISION

(HARTFORD, CT) **October 8, 2026** – The Connecticut Broadcasters Association (CBA) has announced its Hall of Fame inductees and CBA award winners. The Class of 2026 was officially honored during an event which also included the CBA station awards, *The CBAs*.

The Hall of Fame and CBAs were hosted at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville on Wednesday, October 7th. Attendees had the opportunity to connect with broadcasters in the radio and television industry from across Connecticut while celebrating award-winning reports, personalities, and programming.



“The CBAs and Hall of Fame Induction evening give us a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the incredible talent and dedication of Connecticut’s radio and television professionals. It’s exciting to see our stations come together, enjoy a little friendly competition, and celebrate each other’s accomplishments. We don’t often have the chance to bring so many people from across our industry together in one room, and that makes this evening especially meaningful. It’s a night to recognize the work we do, the people who make

Connecticut broadcasting so special, and the strong sense of community that connects us all,” commented Jennifer Parsons, President of the Connecticut Broadcasters Association.

The 2026 CBA Hall of Fame inductees are (in alphabetical order):

Keith Kountz: Keith Kountz has been one of Connecticut television's most familiar and respected news personalities for more than three decades. A longtime anchor at WTNH News 8, his career has been defined by journalistic professionalism, credibility and a strong connection with Connecticut viewers. Kountz joined WTNH in 1987 as a general assignment reporter before moving into anchoring. After a brief period anchoring in Jacksonville, Florida, he returned to WTNH in 2000 and has remained a fixture at News 8 ever since. In 1999, Kountz made Connecticut broadcasting history when he became the first Black person to serve as the primary anchor of an evening newscast at a Connecticut television station—an important milestone for diversity and representation in Connecticut television. A recipient of numerous professional and community honors, Kountz received the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Silver Circle Award in 2010, recognizing his more than 25 years of contribution to television.

MIKE LAPITINO: Mike Lapitino has been one of Connecticut radio's most recognizable and enduring voices for more than four decades. Celebrating 40 years at 99.1 WPLR in 2026, Mike's connection to listeners and his impact on Connecticut broadcasting have made him synonymous with the station—truly the voice of PLR. Born in New York City, Mike moved to Connecticut in 1964 and has proudly called the state home ever since. He began his radio career during Memorial Day weekend in 1976 and joined WPLR in 1986, where he quickly became a fixture of Connecticut afternoons. For more than 45 years, his authenticity, humor, and unmistakable personality have earned the loyalty of generations of listeners and made him one of the state's most respected on-air personalities. Mike's commitment extends well beyond the microphone. For the past 29 years, he has hosted the Mike Lapitino Golf Tournament, raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for women's health care including breast cancer awareness throughout Connecticut. Proud to call Connecticut home, Mike remains grateful for the opportunity to entertain and serve the communities he loves.

Bob Maxon: Bob Maxon has been a trusted and familiar voice of weather in Connecticut for more than three decades. He joined NBC Connecticut in 1995 and has become a fixture of the station's morning news, helping generations of viewers prepare for everything from everyday weather to major New England storms. A Cornell University graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Meteorology, Maxon began his broadcasting career in Ithaca and Binghamton, New York, before spending six years at WMUR-TV in Manchester, New Hampshire. He brought that experience to Connecticut, where he has spent more than 30 years forecasting the state's ever-changing weather. Throughout his career, Maxon has covered some of the region's most memorable weather events, including Hurricane Bob, the Blizzard of 1996, the President's Day Blizzard of 2003, Tropical Storm Irene, Superstorm Sandy and the Blizzard of 2013. He has earned the American Meteorological Society's Seal of Approval for weather forecasting and broadcasting. Beyond the forecast, Maxon has demonstrated a strong commitment to Connecticut communities through his support of organizations including the American Cancer Society, Connecticut Brain Tumor Alliance, CJR, FAVARH, Special Olympics, Healing Meals, Gifts of Love, and the American Heart Association. With his exceptional longevity, professionalism, warmth and dedication to his viewers and community, Bob Maxon has become one of the most recognizable and trusted meteorologists in Connecticut broadcasting.

Courtney Nadeau: Courtney Nadeau is one of Connecticut radio's most recognizable and enduring personalities, having spent decades entertaining and connecting with listeners across the state. Her career at KISS 95.7 (WKSS-FM) stretches back more 30 years, including her early years as part of the station's morning team with Ross Brittain. Today, Nadeau is the longtime host of Courtney & KISS in the Morning, heard weekday mornings on KISS 95.7 in Hartford. The show has become a signature part of the station's programming, combining pop culture, entertainment, humor, listener interaction and features that have made Courtney a familiar part of Connecticut mornings. Beyond her on-air work, Nadeau has demonstrated the versatility and staying power that define a successful radio career. Her ability to remain relevant through dramatic changes in the media landscape, while maintaining a genuine connection with her audience, has made her a distinctive voice in Connecticut broadcasting. For the last 30 years, Courtney Nadeau has brought personality, energy and authenticity to Connecticut radio. Her longevity and enduring relationship with listeners have made her an important part of the state's broadcasting history.

Mike Rice: Mike Rice is a longtime Connecticut broadcasting leader whose career spans decades of service to radio, the broadcasting industry, and his community. As President of Nutmeg Broadcasting

Company, Rice carried on his family's legacy of ownership of WILI-AM and WILI-FM in Willimantic. The Rice family owned the stations for 46 years before selling them to Hall Communications in 2005. A broadcast engineer and experienced radio station owner, Rice was also active in national industry efforts addressing FCC technical and regulatory issues. His commitment to broadcasting extended well beyond his own stations. Rice served the Connecticut Broadcasters Association in leadership for many years, including as CBA Chair in 2000–2001 and as President through 2013. He provided steady leadership during a period of tremendous change in radio and television, representing Connecticut broadcasters on legislative, regulatory, technical and public-service issues. Rice remained an important voice for Connecticut broadcasters during major challenges, including Hurricane Sandy in 2012, helping provide statewide updates on stations' efforts to remain on the air and serve their communities. Mike Rice's legacy is defined by his dedication to local radio, his family's broadcasting business, and the Connecticut broadcasting industry. His leadership helped strengthen and preserve independent broadcasting in Connecticut through decades of technological, regulatory and ownership changes.

THE 2026 Winners of the CBAs :

Broadcast Engineering Excellence

Victor Zarilli, WFSB-TV

Best Use of Digital Media

NBC CT Digital

Best Non-Commercial Station (Radio)

WNPR-CT Public

Best Meteorologist

Mike Slifer, WFSB-TV

Best News Reporter (Radio)

Daniela Doncel, CT Public/WNPR

Best Reporter (TV)

Cassidy Williams, WFSB

Best Local Show (TV)

Capitol Report, WTNH-TV

Best Talk Show (Radio)

Nighttime Neighbors, WTIC AM

Best Community Initiative or Station Promotion

Holiday Stores, WTIC AM

CT's Rising Star

Katie Coen, WFSB-TV

Best Anchor (TV)

Kathryn Hauser, WTNH-TV

Best Air Personality (Radio)

Adam Rivers, WKSS/WKCI

Best Photojournalist (TV)

Eric Budney, WFSB

Best Investigative Story (TV)

Charmed by a Contractor: An NBC Connecticut Responds Investigation, NBC CT Investigative Team

Best Breaking News Coverage (TV)

Winter Storm/Blizzard Benjamin, WFSB

Best Local Sports

WFSB Sports , WFSB-TV

Best Morning Show (Radio)

Anna & Raven, WEZN-FM

College Radio Excellence Award

WWUH, University of Hartford

Station of the Year (Radio)

92.5 WWYZ

Station of the Year (TV)

WTNH-TV

The **Connecticut Broadcasters Association** is an industry trade association which addresses common legal, governmental, education, and community issues on both the State and National levels. Member Radio and TV stations participate in the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and AMBER Alert programs, among other initiatives. For more information about the Connecticut Broadcasters Association and the October 7th Hall of Fame & The CBAs event at the Aqua Turf Club, visit Ctba.org or call 860-307-2644.

##