

## PRESS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **NATAS Mid-America Names Seven New Inductees into the Prestigious Gold & Silver Circle for 2018**

*Inductees to be Honored at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gold & Silver Circle Induction Dinner July 28 in Shreveport*

**St. Louis, Mo. June 26, 2018** – The Mid-America Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences (NATAS) today announced this year's inductees into the NATAS Gold and Silver Circles. The Silver Circle was established to recognize individuals who have devoted a quarter of a century or more to the television industry, and who also have made a meaningful and significant contributions to broadcasting and/or new media. The Gold Circle recognizes those whose contribution spans a remarkable fifty years or more.

"We will induct seven amazing broadcast professionals who not only helped pioneer the TV industry in Mid-America, but they shaped the news operations you see today," said Steve Grant, NATAS Mid-America Chapter President. "This also marks the first time in the history of the Mid-America EMMY Awards that we will bring an EMMY event to the City of Shreveport, Louisiana."

The EMMY Gold & Silver Circle induction ceremony will be held at the Shreveport Convention Center on July 28 at 5:00 p.m.

#### **2018 Gold Circle Inductees:**

- **Steve Stephens, KTHV-TV, Little Rock, AR**

Steve is known as a TV and communications pioneer in the State of Arkansas. His career began in the 1950s as host of the widely popular program "Steve's Show." Following his career in the military, Steve returned to Arkansas at KNBY and soon became known as "the Voice of the White River Valley." He moved on to host a popular television dance party which helped launch the careers of Johnny Cash, Conway Twitty, Branda Lee and many more. Steve's career eventually led him to the weather center at KTHV where he was one of the first weathermen to use Radar and track Santa on the radar at Christmas. He also produced the popular show "Eye on Arkansas," and narrates a radio program on public radio called "Biography Arkansas." Steve was inducted into the Arkansas Entertainers Hall of Fame and recognized by the Arkansas House of Representatives for 50 years in the business.

- **Mike Narisi, KATV-TV, KARK-TV, KTHV-TV, Little Rock, AR**

Throughout his 50+ year career, Mike has done it all in Arkansas and beyond. He began his career as a studio cameraman in 1968 at KFSS-TV in Fort Smith. After serving 2 years active duty in the USN aboard the USS Elmer Montgomery DE 1082 Mike returned to Ft. Smith and worked at Channel 40 KFPW until Jim Pitcock hired him away to Little Rock. He went on to work as a photographer at both KATV-TV and KARK-TV before becoming Chief Photographer at KTHV-TV. Mike was a producer/photographer for the Bill Dance Fishing Show. He's traveled with the national press corps covering the presidential campaigns for President Bill Clinton and President Donald Trump. His production facility Hailstone Creek Productions has hosted live programs for Geraldo, Rachel Maddow, Mike Huckabee and other prominent figures. Mike continues his work in the field covering natural disasters and breaking news as a photojournalist.

- **Bob Griffin, KSLA-TV, KTBS-TV, Shreveport, LA**

Bob has been a part of the Shreveport-Bossier community for more than five decades. He joined KSLA-TV in 1961 as a staff announcer and hosted the popular children's show "Bob and his Buddies." Bob expanded his on-air role to both weather and sports coverage, eventually focusing on sports. He received the Independence Bowl's "Sportsman of the Year" award in 2000. Bob moved from sports to travel stories with his episodes airing on KSLA-TV, as well as

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nationally and internationally. Today Bob's Ark-La-Tex "Living the Good Life" is a regular feature on KTBS-TV.

### 2018 Silver Circle Inductees:

- **Bob Steel, Arkansas Radio Network, KATV-TV, KARK-TV, Little Rock, AR**  
Bob is a radio and TV professional known around Arkansas and across the country. Bob hosts the Arkansas Fairways and Greens radio show every weekend on the Arkansas Radio Network. Bob's TV career lead him to hold about every position at stations throughout the state, including sports anchor, executive producer, producer, sales executive. He eventually settled in as news director at both KATV-TV and KARK-TV winning nearly a dozen Mid-America EMMY Awards and numerous AP awards. Bob currently owns and operates Bob Steel Public Relations.
- **Todd Warren, KTAL-TV, Shreveport, LA**  
Todd began his weather career at KOMU-TV in Columbia, Missouri as a graduate of the University of Missouri. He's now been forecasting the weather for more than three decades, including more than 23 years at stations in the ArkLaTex. He became the chief meteorologist at KTAL-TV in 2001. Todd also served at the ArkLaTex at KTBS for eight years before moving to WLWT-TV in Cincinnati for six years. He earned his AMS seal in 1988.
- **Jenifer Andrews, KNOE-TV, Monroe, LA**  
For more than 30 years Jenifer has used her commitment to journalism as a force for good. Her career has been as diverse as covering the White House to the Gulf War and numerous natural and man-made disasters. She started her broadcast career as an intern at WDAF-TV in Kansas City before getting her first anchor job in St. Joseph, MO at KQTV. Jenifer eventually moved south to Louisiana, anchoring in Alexandria, Shreveport and Monroe. Following a move to Savannah, GA, Jennifer is back behind the anchor desk at KNOE-TV in Monroe, LA.
- **Semmie Buffin, KSLA-TV, Shreveport, LA**  
Known to many as "Mr. Semmie," Buffin was one of the first African-American photojournalists in the broadcast industry. For more than 40 years now, Semmie has held many positions at KSLA-TV in Shreveport, Louisiana. He is now the station's chief photographer. Over his tenure at the station, he's seen many changes, from film to tape and now digital. He's covered presidential campaigns, political conventions and traveled internationally, but Semmie's passion is covering the news and fostering diversity and the next generation of photojournalist.

The 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mid-America Emmy® Awards presented by Branson and Silver Dollar City will be held Saturday, September 22, 2018 at the Kansas City Convention Center. The black-tie affair is open to the public. Tickets go on sale in August and will be available online at [www.emmymid-america.org](http://www.emmymid-america.org) or by calling (314) 314-533-2993.

The Mid-America chapter was chartered in 1962 and began honoring outstanding achievement in this region with local Emmy® Awards in 1976. The Mid-America chapter includes the television markets primarily in Missouri, Arkansas and Illinois and surrounding DMAs: St. Louis, Kansas City, Little Rock, Springfield (MO), St. Joseph, Columbia-Jefferson City, Joplin-Pittsburg, Quincy-Hannibal-Keokuk, Ottumwa-Kirksville, Davenport-Rock Island-Moline, Paducah-Cape Girardeau-Harrisburg, Champaign-Springfield-Decatur, Fort Smith-Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, Jonesboro, Monroe-Eldorado and Shreveport (LA).

### **About NATAS Mid-America Chapter:**

*The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences is dedicated to the advancement of the arts and sciences of television and the promotion of creative leadership for artistic, educational and technical achievements within the television industry. It recognizes excellence in television with the coveted EMMY® Award. For more information, visit [www.emmymid-america.org](http://www.emmymid-america.org). You can also follow @EMMYMidAm on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/EMMYMidAm) and like us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/EMMYMidAm).*