2014 Golden Mike Recipient
Del Bryant
Taishoff Family Foundation

The Taishoff Family Foundation was established by the late Lawrence B. Taishoff and his son Rob in honor of their legendary father and grandfather Sol Taishoff, the founder and editor-in-chief of Broadcasting magazine.

As journalists and publishers, Sol and Larry Taishoff played a seminal role in the development of the radio and television industry in America. As champions of a free and unfettered broadcasting profession, Broadcasting magazine was created as the instrument and manifestation of their devotion to resemble a “sentinel on the Potomac” to warn against government intrusion into the creative processes and activities of radio and television broadcasters.

The Taishoffs devoted their entire lives to extending the values and protections of the First Amendment to “The Fifth Estate” which was the designation bestowed upon the broadcasting fraternity by Sol Taishoff so many years ago.

The vision and foresight of both Taishoffs often caused them to be allied on many of the great issues of the day with the work and example of one of our own founding chairman Ward L. Quaal. In 2009, the Taishoff family was honored with a Ward L. Quaal Pioneer Award.

In addition to their commitment to journalistic causes and a free press, the Taishoff Family Foundation is also active in improving the lives of people with intellectual disabilities. The Foundation has developed resources to help educate society about the special skills and talents of people with Down syndrome, autism and traumatic brain injury, to name a few. Toward this goal, the Taishoff Family Foundation has established the Lawrence B. Taishoff Center for Inclusive Higher Education at Syracuse University.

The Taishoffs also provided critical initial funding for the Library of American Broadcasting, now located at the University of Maryland. Sol Taishoff himself was one of the founders of the Broadcast Pioneers organization which, as you know, has now become the national charitable endeavor known as the Broadcasters Foundation of America which you and so many of our colleagues support.

Today, the Taishoff Family Foundation is administered by the third generation of family members who support, among their many worthwhile endeavors, the National Press Foundation which annually presents the Sol Taishoff Award for Excellence in Electronic Journalism.

Retired Captain Robert Taishoff USN, is the chairman of the Taishoff Family Foundation.

The Broadcasters Foundation of America extends its deep gratitude to the Taishoff family for carrying on the legacy of their illustrious forebears by underwriting On The Air magazine, which is distributed widely throughout the broadcast industry.
chairman’s message

The hope of the Broadcasters Foundation is that no call for help from a broadcaster will ever go unanswered. This year we anticipate that the Foundation will disburse close to $900,000 in assistance. This amount has more than doubled over the past five years. The requests for aid continue at a faster pace than our donations. We need your continued support to help close the gap.

Last year we introduced the Foundation Legacy Society, to help insure we can continue to help broadcasters in need. Please read about the ways you can participate on page 23.

The Broadcasters Foundation is an organization you may never need, but with your help, we will always be there for you or someone you may know.

Thank you,

Jim Thompson
President

president’s message

On a New York City evening in late February, 250 broadcasters and friends gathered at the Plaza hotel to Honor Del Bryant, president of BMI, with the 2014 Golden Mike Award, for his many years of leadership, dedication and commitment to the Broadcasting and Music industries.

The night, that was filled with affection for Del, featured performances by Brenda Russell and Kris Kristofferson. Del’s friend, CBS News’ Bob Schieffer, was master of ceremonies, with comments from Jack Sanders, Sandra Lee and Michael Bolton. The event raised over $200,000 to help provide aid to broadcasters in need.

The annual Broadcasters Foundation NAB Breakfast was held at the Wynn Hotel and honored broadcasters with the Ward L. Quaal Leadership Award and the Lowry Mays Award for Excellence in Broadcasting. You can see all the winners names on page 21 and read more about it in the next edition of On the Air. Thanks for your continued support.

Thank you,

Jim Thompson
President
The Golden Mike Award was presented to Del Bryant, President of Broadcast Music, Inc. (BMI), at a black-tie fundraiser to benefit the Foundation’s mission of helping broadcasters in need. More than 200 television, radio, and music industry executives and celebrities were in attendance for the event.

The evening was hosted by the respected anchor and moderator of CBS News’ Face the Nation, Bob Schieffer. Presenters for the evening were longtime personal and professional friends of Bryant’s: Michael Bolton, performer and BMI songwriter; Jack Sander, former Chairman of the BMI Board of Directors; and Sandra Lee, internationally acclaimed culinary and home style expert and host of four highly rated programs on the Food Network and the Cooking Channel, plus HGTV.

Legendary singer, songwriter, musician, and actor Kris Kristofferson performed “Me and Bobby McGee,” “Sunday Morning Coming Down,” and “Help Me Make It Through The Night.” Accomplished songwriter Brenda Russell sang her Top 10 hit “Piano In The Dark” and also “Get Here.”

Dolly Parton opened a very moving video that provided a glimpse into Bryant’s amazing life — from his early years growing up as the son of songwriters Boudleaux and Felice Bryant through his incredible 42-year career at BMI where he championed the works of some of the biggest songwriters in entertainment.

Event photographer: Wendy Moger-Bross

$200,000 Raised to Help Broadcasters in Need
1. Jim and Cindy Thompson, Joe Blevins, Jim Buckley Fox, Dick Foreman, Chris Petersen and Joe Bodan
2. Del Bryant and Catherine Broomore
3. Jim Thompson, Michael Bolton, Sandra Lee, Del and Thaddeus Bryant, Kris Kristofferson, Brenda Russell, Bob Schaeffer and Phil Lombardo
4. Joe Blevins and Joe Gantini
5. Deborah Neville, Brian and Denise Cobb
6. Bill McGorry, Sandra Lee, Louis Hildcron, Mike Malone and Jason Gerschbhart

1. David Barrett, Dick Foreman and Ernest Liebre
2. Garry Morris and Mike O’Neill
3. Ray Cole, Denise and Brian Cobb, Ernest and Colleen Liebre, and Kent Lombardo
4. Scott Knight, Dennis Lenormand and Neil Hensen
5. Lani MacCourtney, Jim Beloyianis and Mike Festett
6. Caroline Readey and Steve Newberry
7. Thaddeus Bryant and Judy Smith
1. Deborah Norville, Del Bryant, Kris Kristofferson, Sandra Lee, Bob Schieffer and Carolyn Bryant
2. Del Bryant
3. Sandra Lee and Michael Bolton
4. Ernest and Colleen Lieber, and Phil Lombardo
5. Dave Kennedy, John David and Caroline Beasley
6. Brian Cobb, Ray Cole, Mario Gabelli, Denise Cobb and Jim Beloyaizer

1. Joe Bivetta, John David, Jon Buidly Fox and Gokke Smith
2. Brenda Russell and Del Bryant
3. Bruce Ewzorthy, Lori Budgey, Del Bryant and Diane Pearson
4. Emerson Coleman, Suzanne Grethen, Crystal Johns and Kurt Davis
5. Dan Spors, Pamela Williams, Genny Morris and Jose Gonzalez
6. Sandra Lee
7. Bob Schieffer
1. Harry Jessell, Gordon Smith, Dennis Wharton and Bill McGorry
2. Jeff Smulyan and John David
3. Kris Kristofferson, Michael Bolton, Del Bryant, Brenda Russell and Bob Schieffer
4. Sandra Lee, Carolyn and Del Bryant
5. Phil Lombardo, Mario Gabelli and David Barrett
6. The Volunteers

1. Erica Farber, Jon Thompson, Jeff Smulyan, Mike Firestone and Scott Knight
2. Beth and David Barrett
3. Kent Davis, Crystal Johns, Emerson Colema, Beth Barrett, Jordan Worthab and Linda Lange
4. Sandra Lee, Phil Lombardo, Carolyn and Del Bryant
5. Jerry Lee, Frank Osborne and Randy Bontgarden
6. The Volunteers
2014 golden mike award

1. Jim and Cindy Thompson, and Peter Doyle
2. Caroline Beasley and Susan Austin
3. Steve Jones, Frank Vulpi and Holly Bell
4. Dick Ferguson and Kristin Okesson
5. Bill O’Shaughnessy and Bob Scharff
6. Dinner guests

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CELEBRITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

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and one run by people who live for aviation. It’s called passion. We are
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Scared and Alone

It’s hard to imagine the one/two punch the family of this broadcaster was dealt. An announcer and program director in radio for more than 15 years, he was diagnosed with cancer. The treatment left him unable to work. Even with his wife’s income, the couple was desperate to support themselves and their four children. The Broadcasters Foundation awarded them a monthly grant to help make ends meet.

Unfortunately, fate had more in store for this family. Unable to win the battle with cancer, this broadcaster passed away at only 37 years old. The funeral costs wiped out what little the family had left. When two family emergencies arose in one month, the now single-mother faced an unimaginable dilemma. She felt alone and really scared.

In desperation, she wrote to the Broadcasters Foundation which immediately gave her a one-time emergency grant to cover the unexpected costs.

She wrote back:
“I can’t tell you the relief that I feel. My heart skipped a beat when I opened your email. I was worried sick trying to figure out ways to come up with the money. Thank you, thank you, thank you.”

With your help, this broadcaster’s wife and their children can continue to receive a monthly grant from the Broadcasters Foundation of America.

For my fourth-grade science fair in suburban Washington, I assembled a “crystal” radio set from army surplus headphones, a single diode supplied by my adviser Mr. McDuffie and a fat coil of bare copper wire. To this day, I remember the surprise and awe I felt when I put on those earphones for the first time and heard loudly and clearly the sounds of WTOP. It seemed more magic than science.

It’s been my good fortune to spend my entire career as a journalist chronicling broadcasting and the men and women who conjure it — owners, managers, account executives, disk jockeys, anchors, reporters, producers, technicians and engineers. Even though my job has allowed me to learn many of their tricks, I still listen and watch with wonder.

For many of these magicians, broadcasting has been a road to wealth or easy retirement. But the Broadcasters Foundation of America reminds us that it’s not true for all. For some, the road takes a bad turn or two and they end up in deep financial trouble. Often, the bad turn is a devastating illness.

The Foundation also reminds us that it’s up to broadcasters to take care of their own and it provides the means for doing so. Its Guardian Fund makes direct grants to broadcasters in need.

Grant recipients usually remain anonymous. But a few years ago, at the request of Foundation Chairman Phil Lombardo, I interviewed a couple of recipients who wanted to thank the association publicly. I was moved by their stories and came to understand how deeply appreciated and critical the Broadcasters Foundation support can be.

But the Broadcasters Foundation of America can’t do its job without you. Please make a donation to the Guardian Fund and nudge some of your broadcasting colleagues to do the same.

Harry Jessell
Editor and Co-Publisher
TVNewscheck
Friends of Ron Ruth, who passed away in November, gathered in NYC recently to memorialize him. It was a night of toasts and fond memories and stories about Ron. All proceeds went into the Ron Ruth Memorial Fund, which has raised over $30,000 for the Broadcasters Foundation, one of Ron’s most favored Charity.

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Ron Ruth Memorial

A married couple that both worked as successful sales executives in the broadcasting industry find themselves today in a situation that is simply unimaginable. The wife and mother of two small children was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig’s disease. This rare and paralyzing disease, in a very short time, has claimed the exuberant life that she enjoyed. She is fed intravenously and relies on breathing support to survive. She is aware of her surroundings, can see and hear her children but can neither hold nor communicate with them.

Her heartbroken husband is now raising their children, ages 7 and 10, while he tries to cope with the cruel reality that confronts them every day. Their family situation appears as if it could not get any worse. But there is also a pressing financial need. The husband left his prosperous sales career five years ago because he needed to step in and save the family printing business since his own father’s health was failing. He made the commitment to invest most of his resources into the business only to watch it fail financially.

This loss of income coupled with staggering home health care costs have stripped away any safety net that the family saved. Although siblings are trying to assist financially, their contributions are meager compared to the monthly debt.

The Broadcasters Foundation of America is there for them.
The 2014 Broadcasters Foundation of America Annual Breakfast
The Ward L. Quaal Leadership Awards and The Lowry Mays Excellence in Broadcasting Award

During its annual industry breakfast, the Broadcasters Foundation of America continued its tradition of presenting The 2014 Ward L. Quaal Leadership Awards and The Lowry Mays Excellence in Broadcasting Award.

Held in conjunction with the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) Show in Las Vegas on Wednesday, April 9, the complimentary event was made possible by Frank N. Magid Associates, Marketron, the National Association of Media Brokers (NAMB), Nielsen, the Radio Advertising Bureau (RAB), and the Television Bureau of Advertising (TVB).

The Ward L. Quaal Leadership Awards are named in honor of the iconic broadcaster. The awards are presented each year to six broadcasters whose careers have impacted the industry and whose lives have made a difference in the community at large.

The Lowry Mays Excellence in Broadcasting Award annually honors an individual in broadcasting whose work exemplifies innovation, community service, advocacy and entrepreneurship. The Award salutes its namesake, who is a legend in the broadcasting industry, and is underwritten by The Clear Channel Foundation and Wiley Rein LLP.

The 2014 Ward L. Quaal Leadership Awards Recipients are:

Jim Beloyianis, Past President, Katz TV
Dan Mason, President & CEO, CBS Radio
Deborah Norville, Host, Inside Edition
Mary Quass, President & CEO, NRG Media
Perry Sook, Chairman/President & CEO, Nexstar Broadcasting Group, Inc.
Nick Verbitsky, Chairman & CEO, United Stations Radio Networks

The 2014 Lowry Mays Excellence in Broadcasting Award Recipient is:

Richard E. Wiley, Chairman of Wiley Rein LLP and a former Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

Look for pictures from this widely attended event in the summer issue of On the Air.
No silver bullets. No magic formula. No simple forms to fill out...no shortcuts...no faking it. Be real.

Real Awareness Understanding Opportunity Connection Change Work Success

The Broadcasters Foundation of America recently launched the Foundation Legacy Society, a new initiative to ensure its ability to help Broadcast Colleagues in the future. To date, Foundation board members and supporters have committed in excess of $2,500,000 in their estate plans.

There is no more important group of supporters than the generous members of the Legacy Society. Please consider making a Bequest to the Broadcasters Foundation in your will or revocable living trust. Any assets, including cash, securities, real estate or tangible personal property, may be transferred to the Broadcasters Foundation through your estate. A bequest offers many benefits, including:

- Retention of full ownership and use of your assets throughout your life
- Flexibility: a bequest is not permanent and can be changed if your life circumstances change
- Potential reduction in taxes payable by your estate
- Ease of arrangement: your attorney can incorporate gift language as part of your will

Your bequest can be a specific amount, a specific asset, or a specific percentage of the remainder of your estate after all other obligations have been met.

Please consider joining the Broadcasters Foundation's Legacy Society

For more information Contact the Broadcasters Foundation at 212-373-8250 or info@thabloa.org

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