

May, 2018



TRHoF E-Waves NEWSLETTER est 2010



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OFF MIC

by TnRHOF President Douglas Combs



While writing this column, and with our latest induction ceremony just hours away, I'm glad we normally limit this message to just a portion of a page. (Too many things to do, too little time.) We've made several trips to the hotel in the past week, as well as countless phone calls to resolve last-minute issues. Suppliers and other folks need information to assist us with our party Saturday night. Things always come up at the last minute, no matter how much effort you have put into your plan. But as our seventh event draws near, I can proudly say that we're ready to enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship. You should be proud, because this year's honorees (as usual) are all worthy additions to our organization. As we continue to collect and celebrate the "stories" of radio in Tennessee, Saturday night will bring us 14 new chapters.



This event will mark the introduction of the Luther Award for Community Service. So many Tennessee radio stations excel in service to community. It's one of the expectations of broadcasters in each and every community. During the celebration of life ceremony last week for Tommy Jett, the reminders of his selfless efforts on behalf of listeners were repeated time and again.

You will find our first Luther Award recipient has already made a name for themselves nationally in the area of community service. I'm looking forward to making the announcement as we honor the winner,

As our group has grown over the years, so have our ambitions. The Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame is more than just a ceremony once a year. On Saturday

evening I'm also looking forward to announcing a new project that will bring the Hall's name in front of thousands of people — not just Tennesseans, but also visitors from around the world. Those at the banquet will be the first to hear the details about this opportunity that has been offered to us — and how we plan to respond to it.

See page 4 of this newsletter for the schedule for this Saturday's events. I look forward to seeing YOU at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Murfreesboro as the greats of Tennessee Radio are proudly presented for the seventh consecutive year!

Doug



- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Mac Allen | Keith Landecker |
| Bernie Barker | Mark Lefler |
| Mike Beverly | Kyle Nash |
| Chuck Borchard | Greg Owens |
| Jim Buchanan | John Padgett |
| Douglas Combs | Leslie Pardue |
| Tim Cunningham | George Plaster |
| Zelicia Cutrer | Russell "Rusty" Reviere |
| Mary Dabney | Jim Reynolds |
| Paul Randall Dickerson | Buddy Sadler |
| Tony Didier | Bill Smith |
| Roger Dean Duke | Kent Stephens |
| Kenneth Forte | Nancye Stewart |
| Jeri George | Charles Tatum |
| Sammy George | Allen Williams |
| Mike Green | Cliff Williamson |
| Nancy Knowlton | Greg Wood |
| Paul Ladd | |

Remembering the Great Tommy Jett

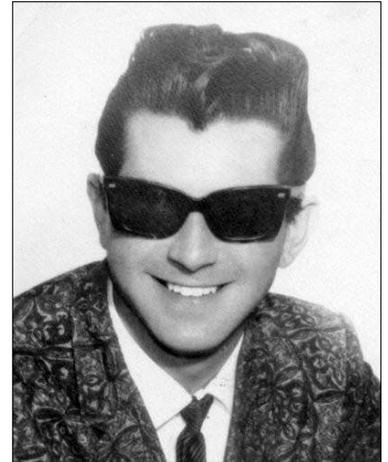


*by Ralph Vaughn
TRHOF Past President*



He was inducted into the Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame on May 4, 2013, along with Les Acree, Charlie Chase, Rick Dees, George Klein, Bob McKay and Pat Sajak. Tommy called that night and the recognition by his peers as “icing on the cake” for his long career in radio broadcasting. It was interesting that over 30 family members and close friends came from near and far to witness the event.

To reminisce about Tommy and the influence he had on so many...we remember him: as almost bigger than life, with a flamboyant personality. He was witty, charming, possessed a keen sense of music, knowing exactly what the audience wanted to hear, and his delivery of cool words captured the imagination of listeners.

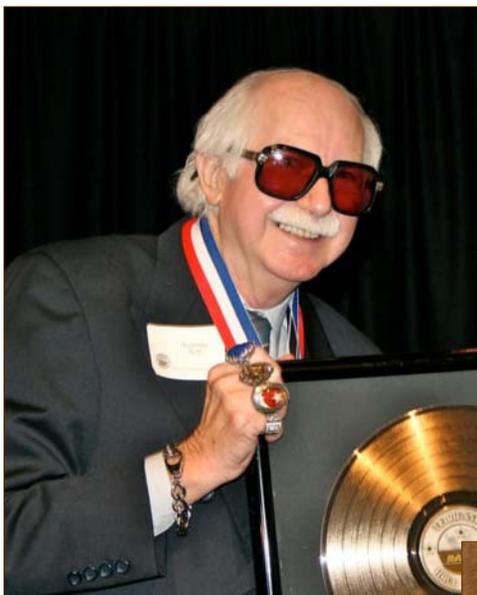


Though the “Glory Years” of his career had passed, he still performed his magic on the Internet and on a low-power radio station every week; proving that a 50,000 watt radio station was not necessary for him to remain “the fastest Jett to fly the skies”.

The last time I spoke to him, on the night before his death...he had recorded a broadcast earlier in the day. Tommy said he was completely worn out from doing the show; mentioned his frailty, loss of weight...but his joy in remaining faithful to those who still wanted to hear him on the airwaves. Tommy’s body was worn out from a lifetime of giving...demonstrating his true humility and for being a close, personal friend to everyone. Rest in Peace.

Legendary radio personality Tommy (Reynolds) Jett left this world on Wednesday, April 25, 2018. Born in DeKalb County, Tennessee on July 26, 1940, he made his career mark after graduating from Mid-South School of Broadcasting in Nashville; later earning fame and recognition in the Chattanooga/Mid-South area.

Tommy was a “Miracle Man,” having acute diabetes, open heart surgery, a near fatal traffic accident in 2012...and probably more aches and pains that he ever mentioned. It was still shocking news to learn of his passing.



Right: Tommy Jett, “back in the day...”

Left: Tommy Jett with his gold record and medallion on the night he was inducted into the Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame in 2013.

Below: Tommy Jett...just being Tommy Jett.

Tommy had a gift for making friends. One would think he had more friends than anyone. Well, maybe he did. Sure, some might be tempted to roll their eyes a little when he mentioned all those known as, “close, personal friends”...but he meant it...and he lived it.



Dex Hangs Up His Hat



by David Carroll
TRHOF Member

Congratulations to one of Chattanooga radio's few remaining "characters," Dex of US-101. He has retired after a quarter-century on the city's top-rated radio station.

I've known Dex since the 70s, when we worked together at WFLI. We didn't know it at the time, but it was the waning days of Jet-FLI's AM radio dominance. FM radio was slowly emerging. Within a few years, Dex, or Dexter as we knew him then, got into the record promotion business, and I switched over to the FM side of the dial. But for a brief period of time, we enjoyed the last remnants of WFLI's glory days.

After spending a decade or so in the record biz, Dex got tired of living out of a suitcase and missing his kids' ballgames and birthdays. He returned to Chattanooga working in various jobs, including a stint at the Choo Choo, managing the restaurant.

In the early 90s, that radio bug bit him again (believe me, it's a hard habit to break), and he joined some old pals like Jim Copeland and David Earl Hughes at US-101. He was just glad to get his foot in the door, so he set up remote broadcasts and did all sorts of odd jobs. "Big ol hairy" David Earl was king of afternoon drive radio, and asked Dex to pitch in with traffic reports.

What happened next was radio magic. The two had instant chemistry. Each made the other laugh, and it



Above: Dex & "Mo"

was really funny, spontaneous stuff. Nothing scripted, never rehearsed. Just two guys who enjoyed each other's company, and who knew their audience.

David Earl eventually was lured to Nashville for a job at WSM-FM. Dex almost went along, but didn't want to uproot his family or spent a lot of time on I-24. Sadly, David Earl passed away shortly afterward, and Dex delivered a memorable, heartfelt eulogy at his funeral.

For the past several years, Dex and his beloved partner "Mo" (Melissa Turner Wagner) have kept the show at the top of the ratings. They have also won a roomful of national radio awards in the process.

Dex never let his radio stardom go to his head. He's just as comfortable talking to his old Rossville High School classmates as he is talking to Kenny Chesney, Garth Brooks, and Blake Shelton. In his early radio days, I guarantee you he never thought he would end up in the Country Radio Hall of Fame and the Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame, not to mention the truckload of ACM and CMA awards he has collected over the years.



Above: Dex in 2016 on the night he was inducted into the Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame.

He has never used an "announcer voice." What you hear is what you get. Dex is a pure, natural personality who brings the party everywhere he goes. Chattanooga radio listeners sure have been lucky to have Billy Joe Poindexter spreading joy into our homes, offices and cars for all these decades. We won't hear as much of him in the future, but we haven't heard the last of him. Something tells me he'll be making us smile at the ball fields, the restaurants, and wherever else he may cross our paths.

Enjoy retirement, Dex! You "done" good!



May 5th Schedule of Events

2:00 p.m.: Early Bird Reception, in the Hotel's Atrium Bar

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.: Cocktail Social in the Banquet Hall

6:30 p.m.: Dinner is Served

7:15 p.m.: Induction Program Begins

Post-Banquet: Hotel Atrium Bar Open Until Midnight

The Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame:

*Working to Preserve
Tennessee's Rich Radio History.*



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REMINDERS



What's Your Radio Story?

Do you have a radio story you'd like to share? It can be anything that is part of your radio history.

**We love radio stories.
Please, tell us yours.**

Just email it to starmagic@comcast.net.

Keeping Up With the Hall

Our newsletter is published the first of every month. Back issues may be viewed on our official website:

www.tennradiohalloffame.org

Let Treasurer Garry Mac know of any change in your email address so you don't miss an issue!

Collecting Our History

The Hall has a committee to collect and purchase Tennessee radio memorabilia, including old microphones, on-air signage, transmitter parts, promotional items and anything else related to radio stations in our state.

If you have items to donate (or purchase on Ebay, Craigslist, etc.) please contact Nick Archer via a message on the TnRHOF Facebook page.

Our Facebook page now boasts more than 1,200 members, and our YouTube Page includes air checks, inductions and other audio/video memories.

Check Your Calendar

May 5, 2018

Annual Induction Banquet
Embassy Suites
1200 Conference Center Boulevard
Murfreesboro

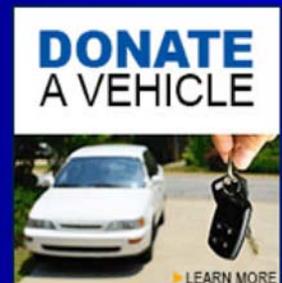


More Events Coming Soon!

To check the TRHOF event calendar anytime, go to the home page of our website:

<http://tennradiohalloffame.org>

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Happiness lies in the joy of achievement and the thrill of creative effort.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

NEWSLETTER STAFF & GROUP INFORMATION

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