

it supports our economy and honors our heritage, John Rowe spent his life leading. He was a visionary leader, and I am proud to have called him a friend.

Loretta and I send our deepest condolences to John's wife Jeanne, their son Bill, and to the countless people whose lives he made better. He will be missed.

REMEMBERING JOHN B. GAINES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame recently announced its 42nd class of inductees, adding eight new members to a list of distinguished journalists, including Pulitzer Prize winners and broadcasters who have become household names. John B. Gaines, the former publisher of the Bowling Green Daily News, was one of this year's posthumous additions. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring John's induction into the Hall of Fame and remembering the deep mark he left on Kentucky print journalism.

John and I met through his role on the Bowling Green Daily News editorial board, where he helped craft opinion pieces that shaped the political outlook of generations of Kentuckians. During my earliest runs for statewide office, I knew how important it was for me to meet with John and his team of writers. Luckily, John and I tended to agree on most issues and became fast friends.

John was a member of the Gaines family, one of Bowling Green's most prominent and, until this year, the owners of the Daily News for five generations. He understood the deep importance of his family to Bowling Green's civic life, leveraging his role at the Daily News to bring public attention to critical local issues and fostering homegrown journalistic talent as President of the Kentucky Press Association. He was also a fierce advocate for government transparency and helped open the halls of Kentucky government more widely to reporters and, by extension, to everyday Kentuckians.

To honor John Gaines' induction into the Journalism Hall of Fame, his son Pipes Gaines delivered remarks at a reception in Lexington, KY. Pipes remembered his father's "love of facts" and his pursuit of them "without fear or favor." I remember John's love for facts, as well, and his earnest belief that unvarnished, unbiased coverage of political issues would always illuminate Kentucky's government better than slanted reporting.

I thank John and the entire Gaines family for their stewardship of one of the Commonwealth's finest newspapers and for their service to their Bowling Green readers. Even more than a decade after John's passing, his legacy continues to reverberate around the Commonwealth.

The Bowling Green Daily News paid tribute to John Gaines' induction into the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame in a recent article. I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Bowling Green Daily News, September 25, 2022]

"THE LATE JOHN B. GAINES, 7 OTHERS
INDUCTED INTO JOURNALISM HALL OF FAME"

John B. Gaines, longtime publisher of the Bowling Green Daily News, was posthumously inducted into the Kentucky Journalism hall of fame Thursday evening in Lexington.

At a reception honoring the eight inductees of the 42nd Hall of Fame class, Pipes Gaines spoke of his father's commitment to journalism, specifically of the Daily News' duty to the community it served. "One characteristic which I believe made him an outstanding journalist was his love of facts—printed facts in particular," Gaines said. "He expected the newsroom to pursue the facts and report them accurately without fear or favor. This kind of journalism was not always popular with people or groups with power and influence."

Along with the late John B. Gaines, the Hall of Fame Class of 2022 includes J. Scott Applewhite of The Associated Press, Jerry Brewer of The Washington Post, the late Melissa Forsythe of WHAS-TV, the late Bill Mardis of the Somerset Commonwealth Journal, Mark Maynard of Kentucky Today, writing coach and retired editor Stuart Warner and Deborah Yetter of The Courier-Journal.

The reception was held in the Gatton Student Center's Grand Ballroom on the University of Kentucky campus. The Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame, founded by the UK Journalism Alumni Association in 1981, honors journalists who are Kentucky natives or have spent a significant portion of their careers working for Kentucky news media organizations.

The late John B. Gaines, who died in 2007 at age 92, spent six decades at the helm of the Daily News. He was influential in the community, writing editorials in support of a countywide library tax, creation of an airport and the banning of prohibition in Bowling Green in 1958. It was later repealed in 1960.

The elder Gaines was "extremely passionate about transparency in government and a local champion of open meetings and open records," according to his son.

John B. Gaines was active in Kentucky journalism through his leadership as a board member and later president of the Kentucky Press Association. He served two terms on the board of the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association, which merged with the Inland Press Association in 2019, to create a new association—America's Newspapers.

He also supported young, aspiring reporters through a scholarship fund for journalists at Western Kentucky University and was instrumental in establishing the Gaines Family Lecture Series that highlights speakers that have achieved distinction in journalism.

The professionalism and integrity of John B. Gaines was also appreciated by one of Bowling Green's longest-serving politicians.

In an earlier story about John B. Gaines published in the Daily News written by Don Sergeant, Jody Richards, who spent 43 years representing the Bowling Green area in the Kentucky General Assembly, called John B. Gaines "an excellent newspaperman and tremendous businessman."

"The thing I remember about him is that he fought hard for freedom of the press and the people's right to know," said Richards, a former journalism instructor at Western Kentucky University. "That's an issue that people always have to fight for."

TRIBUTE TO DAVE "BUZZ" BAKER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Kentucky Broadcasters Association, the Commonwealth's premier representative for our State's public and commercial radio and television stations, recently announced their 2022 Hall of Fame inductees. My good friend Dave "Buzz" Baker, WKYT's sports anchor, is one of those honored this year and joined the ranks of some of Kentucky's finest broadcast journalists. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dave for his service to our State and congratulating him on achieving this high honor.

Dave came to Kentucky in 1978 to attend school at Georgetown College and, after joining WKYT after graduating, has since called the Bluegrass State home. He must have realized quickly that, for a career in sports journalism, few places offer such enthusiastic fans or such riveting rivalries. As a Lexington sports reporter, he reserved special focus for the University of Kentucky Wildcats, tracking UK athletics through their highs and lows over four decades of first-rate journalism.

During his time at WKYT, Dave has had the opportunity to report from five Final Four Championships and three National Championships, following UK all across the country to keep fans updated. In March 2008, he found himself on the sidelines of the SEC Men's Basketball Tournament when a tornado hit the Georgia Dome, certainly one of his more harrowing experiences on the job. His broadcasting extends beyond basketball, from UK football, to professional wrestling, including interviews with Randy Savage and Hulk Hogan. He has had quite the memorable career.

Today, as WKYT's sports anchor, he broadcasts to Lexington's sports-hungry audiences twice every weekday. He also hosts UK Sports Networks' "Countdown to Tip-Off Show" on the school's radio network and his own "Sports Buzz" podcast. In short, he is one of the most recognizable faces and voices of UK sports. His four-decade legacy at WKYT is so legendary that he earned a proclamation earlier this year from Lexington's mayor on his

40th anniversary with the station, naming that day Dave “Buzz” Baker Day in the city.

I also applaud Dave’s work outside the television station. Using the trust and affection he has earned from his viewers, he has worked with Kentucky State government leaders to help promote safe, responsible behavior at the Commonwealth’s high schools and colleges.

I thank Dave for his strong reporting on Kentucky athletics and join all of his viewers and listeners in congratulating him on his most recent honor from the Kentucky Broadcasters Association.

TRIBUTE TO C.B. EMBRY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, my good friend C.B. Embry has worn many hats during his long career in public life: as an elected official for more than 50 years in positions including mayor, county judge-executive, State representative, and State senator; as the proprietor of several businesses in and around Ohio County; as a journalist, published author, and teacher; as a volunteer, political organizer, church leader, and family man. C.B. recently submitted his resignation from the Kentucky State Senate, marking the end of his long career in government. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring C.B. and thanking him for his lifelong service to Kentucky.

C.B. found a passion for public service at a young age, entering journalism and teaching right after graduating from Western Kentucky University. His love for his home State and his hometown propelled him into elected office quickly, and, in 1970, he became the youngest ever mayor of Beaver Dam in Ohio County. His strong leadership and steadfast conservative credentials soon attracted national attention, and, in 1975, he was named the Outstanding Young Republican in the Nation by future President George H. W. Bush.

He and I entered into Republican politics at similar times, back when much of Kentucky was still blue. As young conservatives, we quickly bonded over our shared love of the Commonwealth and our similar work to help flip the State into the Republican column. Over the decades, our collaboration has only grown, and, because of the work of organizers like C.B., Kentuckians across our State have embraced conservative values.

Not long after C.B. entered the public eye, Ohio County residents recognized his expansive leadership potential, electing him county judge-executive in 1982. In 2002, he was elected to serve as State representative and, in 2014, became State senator. In all, he has been elected to public office a dozen times, proof of the trust and admiration he earned from his neighbors and constituents. He has also worked with various Kentucky Governors, Federal agencies, and statewide organizations

to champion policies that improve Kentuckians’ lives.

In his past 8 years in the State senate, C.B. earned recognition as a senior legislator and statesman. His work was expansive in scope, covering issues ranging from agriculture and energy policy to police safety and military affairs. Perhaps his proudest achievement was leading the passage of a so-called “Right to Try” bill that allows medical patients facing debilitating illnesses to try experimental treatments when all other options have been exhausted. State governments all around the country have mimicked his work and passed similar pieces of legislation.

More than anything, C.B. has always prioritized his family, celebrating his 60th anniversary with his wife Wanda this past August. As the father of three, grandfather of four, and great-grandfather of two, he has passed on his legacy of public service and integrity to a blossoming family. In business, church service, and government leadership, his priority has always been to give other Kentuckians the opportunity to build the same success he found in every aspect of his life and career.

When C.B. retired from the State senate, he was the oldest serving member of the body and received recognition from all his colleagues as one of Kentucky’s premier senior statesmen. Congratulations and gratitude poured in from all over the Commonwealth, thanking C.B. for his decades of service to our State. I am proud to add my voice to that chorus of Kentuckians and give my deepest appreciation for his lifelong work on behalf of all citizens of the Commonwealth.

TRIBUTE TO CHUCK MRAZ

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, for more than 30 years, Chuck Mraz served communities in Eastern Kentucky as the “Voice of the Eagles” for Morehead State University athletics at Morehead State Public Radio. During his long career, from which he retired 4 years ago, he earned accolades from around the Commonwealth and region. This year, he received another distinction and was one of several broadcast journalists inducted into the Kentucky Broadcasters Association Hall of Fame. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Chuck for his service and congratulating him on achieving this high honor.

Chuck knew he wanted to be a sportscaster from the beginning of his career, noting in an interview that sports had always been a part of his life since he could pick up a bat and a ball. When he joined Morehead State Public Radio in 1986, he relished the opportunity to give commentary during Morehead State games. Even as his role at the radio station expanded, he stayed on as the voice of Eagles athletics and continues to serve as the play-by-play voice of Morehead State football and men’s basketball in his retirement.

I had the opportunity to join Chuck’s program a number of times over the years, enjoying our conversations that ranged from the important policy issues facing Kentuckians to our shared passion for Kentucky sports. His dedication to his career required many early mornings and late nights, but he never wavered from his love for Morehead State sports, staying dedicated to his beloved Eagles throughout his career.

Chuck’s most recent recognition from the Kentucky Broadcasters Association is just one more award in a long list of honors he has received from local, State, and regional press associations. That includes more than 40 Kentucky Associated Press awards, the Eastern Kentucky Leadership Conference Award for Media and Technology, and the Ohio Valley Conference Media Award. Upon his retirement, Chuck also earned tributes and accolades from around Kentucky and the country.

I thank Chuck for his long career with Morehead State and congratulate him on his well-deserved induction into the Kentucky Broadcasters Association Hall of Fame. To all Kentuckians and Morehead State fans, he will always be the “Voice of the Eagles.”

Morehead State paid tribute to Chuck Mraz in a recent article. I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From Morehead State University, Aug. 11, 2022]

“VOICE OF THE EAGLES CHUCK MRAZ SET TO BE INDUCTED INTO KBA HALL OF FAME”

Longtime Morehead State Public Radio news director, and voice of Morehead State football and men’s basketball Chuck Mraz has been chosen by The Kentucky Broadcaster’s Association as a 2022 recipient of the Kentucky Mic award.

The Kentucky Mic is presented to individuals who have made outstanding personal contributions to the broadcasting profession in Kentucky. Since this award is considered to be the highest given by the KBA, recipients are immediately inducted into the KBA Hall of Fame.

Mraz is a 1978 graduate of Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, where he was a reporter with WSIU-FM, WSIU-TV, WIDB Radio, and did two years play by play and color for SIU football and men’s basketball.

Between 1978 to 1986, he held various on air and sales positions at WKRS (Waukegan, Illinois), WHCO (Sparta, Illinois), WKZN (Zion, Illinois) and WXAN (Ava, Illinois).

In 1986, Mraz joined the Morehead State Public Radio news and sports team, spending 23 years as assistant news director and news director and 17 years as host of “The Front Page” talk show. Before retiring from WMKY in 2018, he had trained more than 600 news student interns.

Although he has retired from full time broadcast duties, he remains the play by play voice of MSU football and men’s basketball, a seat he has filled for 35 years. Since 2014, he has been a big part of the KHSAA Girls’ “Sweet 16” radio network.

Prior to receiving the KBA Kentucky Mic Award, he received more than 40 other broadcast awards including “Best Sportscast”,