

Dick Kay



Dick Kay has accomplished much for a man who attended high school for just 7 months before dropping out at the age of 14. After working at countless jobs, he joined the Navy when he was 17. Following his discharge, Kay attended Bradley University on the G.I. Bill and graduated with a B.S. in Speech Education in 1962. Two decades later, Bradley University named Kay "Distinguished Alumnus"--making him one of only 45 so honored.

Kay worked for several radio and TV stations in Peoria, Illinois, before moving to Green Bay, Wisconsin, in 1965, to become the News Director of WFRV-TV.

Dick Kay joined NBC 5 as a news writer in one of Chicago's most newsworthy and volatile years—1968. Two years later, he became an on-air reporter. He was awarded his first Chicago Emmy in 1976 and won his 11th, and most recent, Emmy in 2000.

In 1984, Kay's 9-month investigation--Political Parasites--reported on the ineffectiveness and questionable spending practices of Illinois' Legislative Study Commissions. As a result of these reports, Illinois' General Assembly approved a bill to abolish Study Commissions--a savings of more than \$4 million a year to taxpayers. For this report, Kay was awarded the prestigious George Foster Peabody Award. Also in 1984, he received the Dante Award, from the Joint Civic Committee of Italian-Americans, who honored him as "Commentator of the Year." That same year, Kay's commentaries and reports earned him a National Headliner Award, Jacob Scher and Associated Press Awards.

He won his first Peter Lisagor Award in 1986, winning three in a row for commentary (1998-1999-2000). He also won a 1989 UPI Award, and Associated Press Awards for commentaries in '98, '99 and 2000. In April of 2000, Kay also received the Chicago Headline Club Award for his commentaries.

In four decades, NBC 5 Political Editor Dick Kay has interviewed every President since Richard Nixon, covered Chicago political conventions from 1968 to 1996, and carried on with distinction the proud Channel 5 Commentary traditions of Len O'Connor and Jim Ruddle.