CHUCK DAVIDSON

Chuck Davidson was born on the north side of Chicago in 1943 and attended St. Henry Grade School before moving to DeWitt, Iowa in 1953. He finished grade school and high school there at St. Joseph before attending the University of Iowa. He gained on-air radio news experience at campus station WSUI and graduated with a B.A. in radio-TV journalism.

Hired out of college by WOI-AM-FM-TV in Ames/Des Moines, Iowa, Davidson anchored sign-on radio news while learning film camera work and editing on the TV side. He married Charlotte Hess and moved to WJIM-TV in Lansing, Michigan as a full-time cameraman in 1966. He covered the increasing campus protests against the Viet Nam war and civil rights inequality.

Davidson worked mostly in news with occasional forays into sports, including the football classic between Michigan State and Notre Dame, the “Game of the Century” that ended in a 10-10 tie. Chuck’s next stop was Detroit’s WJBK-TV in 1968, the year of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Senator Robert Kennedy assassinations. He covered that tumultuous era and extensive unrest on college campuses but gradually continued his migration to sports coverage. He was on the front camera lines for two Detroit Tiger World Series championships and Michigan State’s 1979 NCAA basketball Final Four victory. Additionally, he covered University of Michigan football during the Bo Schembechler years, featuring several post-season bowl appearances.

He joined WLS-TV in 1985, moving to WBBM-TV a year later. He specialized in sports coverage, concentrating on Bears football and Bulls basketball. He had many memorable experiences involving the likes of Mike Ditka and Michael Jordan. He worked all six Bulls NBA championships in the 1990s and all three Blackhawks’ Stanley Cup wins. A highly knowledgeable sports fan, he always got the great plays and crucial winning shots and through the years built relationships with key sports figures.

Davidson retired from WBBM in 2015 after 50 years in television. He was honored at Soldier Field by being presented a ‘Number 50’ Bears jersey in recognition of his half-century in broadcast journalism. Happily married to Charlotte, they have two grown children (Joan and John) and five grandchildren.

JIM WILLIAMS

Jim Williams began his broadcasting career as a news film librarian at WGN Television in 1977. Two years later, he joined WGN Radio as a news writer, and after a year on the overnight shift, wrote newscasts for the Wally Phillips and Bob Collins shows. In 1982, he returned to the television side of the newsroom as a writer, weekend producer of The Nine O’Clock News and Sunday night sportscast producer.

In 1986, Williams wrote, co-produced and hosted the public affairs program Chicago Profiles. His first appearance on television earned him a Chicago/Midwest Emmy® nomination for Individual Excellence on Camera. Later that year, in addition to his other duties at the station, he began reporting on weekends. In 1988, Williams became a full-time reporter at Channel 9, primarily covering local politics.

Williams became Richard M. Daley’s mayoral press secretary in 1992, although he initially turned down the job because he was reluctant to leave journalism. He wound up having one of the longest tenures as press secretary in the city’s history. City Hall reporters praised Williams for fostering a positive working relationship between the media and the Daley Administration.

In 1997, Williams returned to broadcast journalism as a network correspondent for ABC News for World News Tonight with Peter Jennings and Good Morning America, he covered a broad range of stories across the country, from wildfires to hurricanes, from raging floods to the hunt for fugitive bomber Eric Rudolph. In China, Williams reported on the government’s crackdown on the spiritual group Falun Gong.

Since 2002, Williams has been a reporter for CBS 2 Chicago. He also anchors the station’s Sunday evening newscasts. His documentary series Stories 2 Tell debuts this year.

Jim Williams was born and raised on Chicago’s south side. His father was a Chicago police lieutenant; his mother a special education teacher. He is a graduate of Kenwood Academy and Columbia College Chicago. He has won numerous awards, including a Emmy® for investigative reporting. Williams is a longtime board member of the Mercy Home for Boys and Girls. He and his wife Joyce have four adult children.