



SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

September 28, 2011

Lawrence P. Taylor
Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame Association
P.O. Box 785
Bloomington, IN 47402

Dear Larry:

I would like to nominate **Steve Kroft** of CBS Television for induction into the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame.

A native of Kokomo, Kroft has worked for more than 40 years in broadcast journalism, covering hundreds of stories of regional, national and international importance. He has spent more than two decades uncovering national stories as a correspondent for "60 Minutes."

The attached biography records his many accomplishments. Overall, his investigative reporting has earned five Peabody Awards and 10 Emmy Awards, including an Emmy for Lifetime Achievement in 2003.

I met Steve when he spoke at the School of Journalism a few years ago as part of our national speaker series. There is no doubt that his record of achievement is worthy for consideration by the Hall of Fame. Few people in Indiana journalism history likely have achieved his national stature in broadcast journalism.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brad Hamm
Dean

(The Indiana University School of Journalism prepared this nomination for consideration by the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame Board of Directors.)

July 9, 1998 11:34 AM

Steve Kroft

Steve Kroft was named a "60 Minutes" correspondent in May 1989 and delivered his first report that September. The 2011-12 season is his 23rd on the broadcast.

Kroft reported two of the biggest news stories of 2011, getting the only interview of President Barack Obama on the **killing of Osama bin Laden** and revealing that author and humanitarian **Greg Mortenson** lied in his best-selling book "Three Cups of Tea" and misrepresented the achievements of his charity. In 2010, he was chosen for the Paul White Award by the Radio, Television and Digital News Association (RTDNA) - the highest honor from the industry's largest peer association. At the same time, he became the only "60 Minutes" correspondent to ever win two Peabody Awards in the same year. One was for a story on the vulnerability to computer hackers of crucial infrastructures like the power grid, and the other for a story examining the enormous sums of money spent prolonging the lives of dying Americans, bringing his total number of Peabodys to five. The year 2010 continued to bring more recognition, as he received a George Polk award for his report attributing wild swings in the price of oil to Wall Street speculation and an Emmy for his report on rising Islamic militancy in Pakistan.

In 2008, he landed what was arguably the biggest interview of the year: the first post-election sit-down with Barack and Michelle Obama. It was broadcast on "60 Minutes" Nov. 16 to 25.1 million viewers, the largest primetime television audience of the season to that point. His joint investigation with the Washington Post exposing the deeply flawed forensic science of bullet lead analysis won the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism award earlier in 2008 and was one of four major awards he won in the space of a year. He won the Sigma Delta Chi award for the same story and the coveted Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University silver baton for an investigation into the disappearance of over \$500 million from Iraq's treasury. He also received the Fred Friendly First Amendment award from Quinnipiac University, one of the industry's most prestigious recognitions, in May 2007. His considerable body of work also was recognized with a Lifetime Achievement Emmy in September 2003. And one of his finest investigative stories, a report examining the conflicts of interest between military contractors and the government in the awarding of contracts, "All in the Family" (April 2003), earned him a Peabody Award.

Many of Kroft's other "60 Minutes" reports have been recognized by awards committees. His report "America's Worst Nightmare" (Oct. 2000), on Pakistan's political instability, nuclear weapons and ties to Islamic militant groups such as the Taliban, won him an Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University silver baton for a report the committee called "strikingly prophetic." "I.N.S." (March 2002), on the Immigration and Naturalization Service, was cited as one of the reports for which CBS News won the 2003 Overall Excellence Award from the RTDNA. Kroft also conducted the first television interview with Jonathan Lebed, the teenage stock manipulator who was the youngest person ever sued by the SEC. Kroft won an Emmy for a "60 Minutes" segment about the risks posed to the nation's water supply by the gasoline additive MTBE, now present in the ground water of 49 states.

In 1998, two of Kroft's "60 Minutes" reports were honored with a George Foster Peabody

Award: "Veronica Guerin," a piece about an Irish reporter gunned down by drug dealers, and "West Side Story," an uplifting account of racial tension turned into racial harmony. Another Peabody winner, "Friendly Fire," about a Gulf War incident which explored the tragic, yet common occurrence of soldiers accidentally killing their own men, was broadcast on "60 Minutes" in 1992.

In 1996, Kroft's report "The Worst Nightmare" was the first to document the involvement of the Russian mafia in the smuggling of nuclear materials out of the former Soviet Union. The story won the prestigious Renner Award for reporting on organized crime, which is given by the Association of Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE).

In 1994, Kroft was honored with two of his 11 Emmy Awards. One was for a profile of Senator Bob Dole and the other for a report on the Cuban government's policy of quarantining people infected with the AIDS virus. His 1998 story about the tough, flamboyant mayor of Moscow, Yuri Luzhkov, won an Emmy as well.

His exclusive 1992 interview with then-Governor Bill Clinton and his wife, Hillary, ended up on the front page of virtually every newspaper in the country, and it is continually cited as one of the defining moments of that presidential election.

Two of Kroft's most significant reports have been on Chernobyl. In 1990, he was the first American journalist to be given extensive access to the contaminated nuclear power complex in Ukraine. That report also won an Emmy for special achievement in broadcasting. Kroft returned to Chernobyl in 1994 and became the first American reporter to enter the crippled reactor building.

Other memorable "60 Minutes" stories include an undercover investigation on the rolling back of odometers by car wholesalers in Houston, which triggered a federal grand-jury investigation that resulted in five convictions; the only television interview with Woody Allen during his bitter custody battle with Mia Farrow; a report on alleged jury tampering in the O. J. Simpson murder case; and his investigation of Saddam Hussein's hidden financial assets, estimated in the billions of dollars, which attracted worldwide attention.

Before joining "60 Minutes", Kroft was a principal correspondent on the CBS News magazine "West 57th," after having been a foreign correspondent for CBS News based in the London bureau, a period during which he covered international terrorism in Europe and the Middle East, including the TWA hijacking in Beirut, the massacres at the Rome and Vienna airports by the Abu Nidal terrorist cell and the Achille Lauro hijacking. He also covered the war in Beirut and the sectarian violence in Northern Ireland. His report for the CBS Evening News on the assassination of Indira Gandhi won an Emmy Award.

Prior to his assignment in London, Kroft was a correspondent in the CBS News Miami bureau (1983) and traveled extensively in Latin America and the Caribbean. During that time, he covered the civil war in El Salvador and the U.S. invasion of Grenada.

Kroft joined CBS News in January 1980 as a reporter in the Northeast bureau in New York. He was named a correspondent in May 1981 and worked out of the Dallas bureau (January 1981-May 1983).

Before joining CBS News, Kroft was a reporter for WPLG-TV Miami, WJXT-TV Jacksonville, Fla., and WSYR-TV Syracuse, N.Y.

He was born Aug. 22, 1945, in Kokomo, Ind., and was graduated from Syracuse University in 1967 with a bachelor of science degree. He was honored by his alma mater in 1992 with the George Arents Medal, the highest honor the university gives to an alumnus. Kroft earned a master's degree from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and received an honorary doctorate of humane letters from Indiana University. He served with the United States Army in Vietnam as a correspondent and photographer for Pacific Stars and Stripes.

Kroft is married to journalist Jennet Conant. They live in New York with their son, John Conant Kroft.

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