FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Tracy Caruso, Executive Director

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**WMUR -TV and WZID RADIO NAMED 2020 NHAB STATIONS OF THE YEAR**

*Entire NH Broadcast Community Honored as Broadcaster of the Year for Work Done During Pandemic; Several Awards Handed Out to Radio and TV for Outstanding Work*

**MANCHESTER** – 2020 will forever be remembered for COVID-19, but in the broadcast industry, it will also be remembered for the unique perseverance shown by radio and tv stations to ensure that live and local broadcasts didn’t go dark even though many studios had to be vacated for public health and safety. This year, New Hampshire broadcasters overcame obstacles to continue to provide award-winning coverage of the year that was… from a tragic Pelham church shooting to uniquely informative and entertaining NH Primary coverage, as well as several creative and memorable commercials in both radio and television. These are just some of the recipients of the 2020 Granite Mike Awards.

In a virtual awards video presentation, NHAB leadership honored the member stations for their hard work. “Our industry has suffered deep losses; we faced setbacks and had to throw out our daily rulebooks and draft a new and completely different blueprint for our day to day routines,” explains Tracy Caruso, Executive Director of New Hampshire Association of Broadcasters. “We have cut, simplified, distanced and even turned bedrooms, dining rooms, spare rooms into broadcast studios, production centers and sales headquarters. Despite the sometimes-existential challenges… we continue to provide content, news, entertainment, information, comfort, reassurance, even laughter and distraction at a time when Granite Staters need us the most.”

It was a year of outstanding performances in the most challenging conditions…

Mark Healey, radio host for WINQ in Winchester, and WMUR TV’s Erin Fehlau received the radio and television *Air Personality* awards. WVMJ’s Gino and the Magic Morning Show won First Place in the Morning Show Team category. Individuals and stations submitted 180 entries in 17 categories. The work was judged by the Wyoming Broadcasters Association. WMUR TV and WZID-FM were named the television and radio *Stations of the Year* respectively.

NHAB presented the 2020 Broadcaster of the Year award to every media outlet, for working above and beyond the challenges of the pandemic, which forced so many stations to rethink how to provide on-air content safely and without interruption. Many stations outfitted their employee’s homes with necessary equipment to ensure the show went on no matter what.

The list of winners is as follows:

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| **Public Affairs/Talk** |

**Radio**

**MERIT -** WKBK - Viewpoint

**FIRST –** WTSN – Open Mic with Mike Pomp

**Television**

**MERIT -** WMUR-TV – Shining Light on Mental Health

**FIRST –** WMUR-TV - Close-Up

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| **Spot News** |

**Radio**

**MERIT –** WBNH-LP – Active Shooter Drill / Climate Protest

**FIRST –** NH Public Radio – Dozens Arrested at Protest Outside Coal Power Plant

**Television**

**MERIT -** WMUR-TV – Pelham Church Shooting

**FIRST –** WMUR-TV – Multi-State Carjacking Suspect

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| **Documentary News** |

**Radio**

**MERIT-** NH Public Radio – Stranglehold

**FIRST –** NH Public Radio – Patient Zero

**Television**

**MERIT -** WMUR-TV – NH Chronicle – Greenville Trestle Fly-Under

**FIRST –** WMUR-TV – Newsnine Investigates: Damien Seace

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| **Feature Story** |

**Radio**

**MERIT –** NH Public Radio – Owls Head

**FIRST –** NH Public Radio – A Night At Route 4’s Rainbow Cottages

**Television**

**MERIT -** WMUR-TV – NH Chronicle – The Elevator Kid

**FIRST –** WMUR-TV – NH Chronicle – Harry King’s Love Story

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| **Newscast** |

**Radio**

**MERIT –** NH Public Radio - February 12, 2020 – The Day After the NH Primary

**FIRST –** WTSN – News with Dave Andreesen

**Television**

**MERIT -**WMUR-TV – News 9 at 6:00 – Stay At Home Order

**FIRST –** WMUR-TV – News 9 Tonight – The Democratic Debate

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| **Sports Feature** |

**Radio**

**MERIT –** WBNH-LP Fox On Sports – Chris Carpenter

**FIRST** – WZEI – 101.5 Local Sports Update

**Television**

**MERIT -** WMUR-TV – NH Chronicle – NHL Lineman Brian Murphy

**FIRST –** WMUR-TV – NH Chronicle – Kennett Football Amputee

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| **Air Personality** |

**Radio**

**MERIT -** WOKQ – Jess Tyler

**FIRST –** WINQ – Mark Healey

**Television**

**MERIT -** WMUR-TV – Chronicle – Sean McDonald

**FIRST –** WMUR-TV – Chronicle – Erin Fehlau

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| **Morning Show Team – radio category only** |

**Radio**

**MERIT -**WSHK/WSAK – The Shark Morning Show with Sarah and A-Train

**FIRST –** WVMJ – Gino and the Magic Morning Show

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| **Station Promotional Announcement** |

**Radio**

**MERIT –** WXEX Am/FM – A-Z Weekend

**FIRST –** WHEB – Greg and the Morning Buzz

**Television**

**MERIT –** WMUR-TV – Jamie Staton – Empty Fields

**FIRST –** WMUR-TV – Signs of Hope

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| **Individual Commercial** |

**Radio**

**MERIT –** WXEX – IHOP Dreadfully Delicious

**FIRST -**WKNE – Salsa Sisters

**Television**

**MERIT –** WMUR – Adam Vaillancourt Roofing – Hire a Pro

**FIRST –** WPTZ/WNNE – Liquid Art

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| **Commercial Campaign** |

**Radio**

**MERIT –** WZID – Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center

**FIRST –** WHEB – The Takeout Guys

**Television**

**MERIT –** WPTZ/WNNE – Brown Furniture

**FIRST –** WMUR -TV – The Massiello Group

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| **Best Use of Digital Media** |

**Radio**

**MERIT –** WSHK/WSAK – The Shark Digital 2020

**FIRST –** WVMJ – Sea Dog to the Rescue

**Television**

**FIRST –** WMUR-TV- WMUR On Every Screen

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| **Best Station Promotion** |

**Radio**

**MERIT –** WKKN – Santa’s Sack

**FIRST –** WFTN – 94.1 – Vista Foods Super Sweep

**Television**

**FIRST –** WMUR-TV – MeTv’s NH Retro Lounge

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| **Local Special Program/Event** |

**Radio**

**MERIT-** Mt Washington Radio – A Valley Update on COVID-19

**FIRST –** WLKZ 38th Annual Lakes Region Children’s Auction

**Television**

**MERIT –** WMUR - Remembering Tomie

**FIRST –** WMUR-TV – NH Class of 2020 – Celebrating Our Seniors

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| **LP-FM** |

**Radio**

**MERIT –** WBNH-LP – Bedford’s COVID Resource Radio

**FIRST –** WNHN-LP – NH’s News Views and Blues

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| **Public Service Campaign of the Year** |

**Radio**

**MERIT –** WHEB – WGIR – Lend a Helping Can

**FIRST –** WHEB / WGIR – NH Together from Home

**Television**

**Merit-** WMUR-TV **-** Supporting the Community

**FIRST –** WMUR-TV – Home at Last

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| **Station of the Year** |

**Radio**

**MERIT –** WLKZ – 104.9

**FIRST** - WZID-FM – 95.7

**Television**

**FIRST –** WMUR-TV

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*About the New Hampshire Association of Broadcasters:*

Established in 1954, the New Hampshire Association of Broadcasters is the only voluntary, statewide trade organization serving the Granite State’s over-the-air radio and television stations. It assists members with general and broadcast-specific business challenges through educational seminars, legal hotlines, lobbying (in-state and on Capitol Hill), and additional opportunities to receive industry specific assistance, locate helpful resources, and network with fellow broadcasters.