

CBA Hall of Fame Application Form : Entry # 3192

Name of Nominee

Luan Aiken

Media Nominee Worked In:

Both

Total No. of Years Worked in Colorado Broadcasting

38

Status:

Living

Nominee's Contact Information

Nominee's Email

twointhezoo@aol.com

Nominee's Phone

(303) 910-1673

Nominee's Address

9603 N Kiowa Rd
Parker, Colorado 80138
United States
[Map It](#)

Nominee Information

Nomination Type

Nominator

Nominator Name

Murphy Huston

Nominator Email

wlhuston@hotmail.com

Nominator Phone

(303) 912-9783

Nominee Details

Nominee's Work History

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Company/Call Letters	Position Held	Year Started	Year Ended
KOA Radio	Anchor	1977	1979
KCNC-TV	TV Reporter	1979	2010

Description of Merit

Contributions to Profession:

Luan Aiken dedicated nearly four decades to broadcast journalism, helping shape how local news is delivered in Colorado. She was an early adopter of live, in-depth community coverage, from city council meetings to school district issues during politically tense times. Through her work at KBOL, KOA Radio, and KCNC-TV, she elevated the importance of local storytelling and public service journalism. As one of the pioneering aerial reporters in KCNC's Copter4, she helped redefine real-time reporting on traffic, emergencies, and breaking news. Her ability to translate complex situations into clear, accessible information made her a trusted voice for the community and a model for future broadcasters.

Broadcast Career Highlights:

Luan's career is marked by groundbreaking and impactful reporting. She logged approximately 10,000 flight hours as an aerial reporter for KCNC-TV, delivering live coverage of traffic, emergencies, and major breaking news events. She served as the primary reporter on the construction of Denver International Airport, one of the largest public works projects in North America. She covered numerous high-profile and emotionally impactful stories, including violent crimes, missing persons cases, and major accidents, as well as historic moments like the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. She was among the first reporters on the scene of the 2004 Granby "bulldozer rampage" and provided critical coverage of major wildfires, including the 2002 Hayman Fire. Her reporting frequently contributed to public safety awareness and informed decision-making during emergencies.

Broadcast Recognition & Awards:

Luan Aiken's excellence in broadcasting has been recognized with multiple prestigious honors. She is a three-time Heartland Emmy Award recipient for tornado coverage (1988, 1996, and 2005). In 2007, she was inducted into the Silver Circle of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, Heartland Chapter, recognizing her significant, long-term contributions to the television industry. These honors reflect both her journalistic skill and her enduring impact on the profession.

Local, State, or National Broadcast Activities:

Throughout her career, Luan's work consistently reached audiences across local, state, and national levels. Her reporting on major events—including aviation accidents, wildfires, and severe weather—was often picked up nationally, bringing Colorado stories to a broader audience. Her aerial reporting provided critical, real-time information to viewers across the Denver metro area and beyond, particularly during emergencies and high-impact news events. She played a key role in keeping the public informed during rapidly evolving situations, reinforcing the essential role of broadcast journalism in public safety.

Community Service:

Beyond her newsroom career, Luan has demonstrated a deep commitment to community engagement. As a Colorado Master Gardener and later as Garden Ambassador for Tagawa Gardens, she has spent years educating and empowering individuals and groups through gardening programs, presentations, and outreach. She has worked with garden clubs, senior groups, nonprofits, and community organizations, sharing her knowledge and passion to improve quality of life and foster connection. Her dedication to helping others extends well beyond broadcasting.

Reason Nominee Should Be Chosen:

Luan Aiken exemplifies the very best of Colorado broadcasting—dedication, integrity, and service to the community. For nearly 40 years, she informed, protected, and connected the public through trusted, impactful journalism. Her pioneering work in aerial reporting, her commitment to covering stories that mattered, and her ability to serve the community both on and off the air have left

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a lasting legacy. Luan's career reflects not only professional excellence but also a genuine commitment to helping the people of Denver and Colorado, making her exceptionally deserving of Hall of Fame recognition.

Supporting & Additional Material Uploads

Recommendation Letters

- [Luan-Rec-Letter-2.pdf](#)
- [Luan-Rec-Letter-1.pdf](#)

Notes



(Admin) Hall of Fame Application Received (ID: 6684213bb341c)

added April 30, 2026 at 4:50 pm

WordPress successfully passed the notification email to the sending server.



April 8, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

For decades, Luan Akin was both a calm, authoritative voice in the sky and a warm, reassuring presence on camera as she reported on Denver's most significant news events from Copter 4. Her work exemplified excellence in broadcast journalism, and her legacy at CBS Colorado remains unmatched.

Luan will be forever remembered for her extraordinary coverage of the Granby bulldozer rampage. As initial reports emerged from the small mountain town of Granby, describing a man who had transformed a bulldozer into a destructive armored vehicle, it was clear that reaching the scene quickly would be a challenge. Ground crews faced hours of travel time, but Luan, alongside Copter 4 pilot Mike Silva and photographer David Gregg, made the courageous decision to respond immediately by air. Demonstrating exceptional skill and determination, they flew over the Continental Divide—an undertaking many helicopter pilots are not trained to attempt.

Upon arrival, they encountered a scene unlike anything previously witnessed: widespread devastation, with buildings reduced to rubble. In that moment, Luan delivered coverage that defined her career. With remarkable composure and clarity, she provided an eloquent, measured account of an unprecedented event. While she was always exceptional at her craft, that day her professionalism and talent shone especially bright.

When it came to helicopter reporting, Luan set the standard. Whether tracking severe weather or covering breaking news, she maintained a steady, composed presence, ensuring viewers received clear, accurate information. This was long before the advanced forecasting technologies available today, making her ability to interpret and communicate rapidly evolving conditions all the more impressive.

Beyond daily reporting, Luan played a pivotal role in CBS Colorado's coverage of the construction of Denver International Airport. She immersed herself in the complexities of the project, gaining deep knowledge and sharing it with both the newsroom and the public. Her curiosity and dedication allowed her to bring clarity to large-scale developments, often covering an extraordinary range of stories in a single day.

Luan's impact extended far beyond journalism. A Colorado native, she joined KCNC in 1979 as a general assignment reporter before becoming a pioneer in helicopter reporting. She was deeply committed to her community, contributing her time and energy to numerous organizations, including the Denver Dumb Friends League, MaxFund, the Bat Conservation Society, and the Delta Society, which connects therapy dogs with those in need. Her compassion reached far beyond Colorado, as demonstrated by her support in funding a well in a remote village in Uganda to provide clean drinking water for orphaned children.

She was also a dedicated supporter of education, serving as a guest speaker and mentor for students at Colorado's universities and journalism programs, as well as contributing to organizations such as Loyola School and the Ronald McDonald House. In addition to her professional and philanthropic work, Luan was a Master Gardener and an avid beekeeper, always eager to share her knowledge and passions with those around her.

It was both an honor and a privilege to work alongside Luan Akin for many years. Her professionalism, courage, generosity, and unwavering commitment to her craft and community leave a lasting legacy that continues to inspire all who had the opportunity to know her.

Kristine Strain
VP Station Manager and News Director
CBS Colorado

April 16, 2026

To the Colorado Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Luan Akin to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. I am the President and General Manager at KCNC-TV/CBS Colorado, where Luan Akin worked as a reporter for 30 years, much of that time as a helicopter reporter in "Copter 4." I was fortunate to work with Luan for nearly 15 years, and I know her well as a person and as a professional.

Luan was not only a pioneering reporter in the Denver market, she was also a leader in the community, a trusted colleague, and a mentor to others. As a journalist, Luan set the standard – in Colorado and nationally – for helicopter reporting.

I was working as a producer in the control room for two particularly dangerous storms – when Luan and our team in the helicopter provided life-saving information. One was on May 30, 1996 when we had "twin tornadoes" on the eastern plains of Colorado threatening several small communities. Two tornadoes tearing a path of destruction at the same time is something I had never seen before and have not seen since. Luan's steady presence in the helicopter provided specific location detail to help people in the path of the tornadoes take shelter.

The other was in 2005, when during the span of an afternoon we experienced an outbreak of 11 tornadoes. This was a particularly dangerous situation for Luan and our helicopter team as the storm's behavior was unpredictable and tornadoes began forming all around them. Luan, as always, maintained her cool and again provided life-saving information to communities in the path of these dangerous tornadoes. Luan and I earned Emmy Awards for coverage of both storms, but in accepting Luan noted that what is most rewarding is knowing that you are providing critical information in a crisis that can help save lives in our rural communities.

Finally, a few words about Luan Akin as a valued colleague and mentor. Luan leads by example. In addition to her work in the helicopter, she also took very seriously her work in the community. Her passions for animals and gardening were evident in this work – volunteering with animal shelters, rescue organizations, and therapy dogs. She is also a master gardener, offering our viewers regular advice to support at-home gardens. And Luan is a mentor – always open to offering advice and support to our younger journalists in the newsroom, and working with college journalism programs to inspire future journalists.

In short, Luan served communities across Colorado for three decades – saving lives and influencing generations of journalists. She is an ideal candidate for the Colorado Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tim Wieland
President and General Manager
CBS Colorado