

## CBA Hall of Fame Application Form : Entry # 3067

### Name of Nominee

Peter Boyles

### Media Nominee Worked In:

Both

### Total No. of Years Worked in Colorado Broadcasting

50

### Status:

Living

### Nominee's Contact Information

#### Nominee's Email

[peterboyles@comcast.net](mailto:peterboyles@comcast.net)

#### Nominee's Phone

(303) 888-4563

#### Nominee's Address

2621 South Jackson Street  
Denver, Colorado 80210  
United States  
[Map It](#)

### Nominee Information

#### Nomination Type

Self Nomination

### Nominee Details

#### Nominee's Work History

Company/Call Letters	Position Held	Year Started	Year Ended
AAA Autoclub	Writer / Producer / On-Air Reporter	1971	1974
KAAT Radio	Weekend Producer / On Air Host	1972	1973
KLAK Radio	Morning Show Host	1973	1977
KWBZ Radio	Morning Show Host	1977	1979
WRC Radio	Overnight Host	1979	1979
KWBZ Radio	Morning Show Host	1979	1980
KHOW Radio	Evening Host	1980	1982
KOA Radio	Mid-Morning Host	1982	1984
KNUS Radio	Morning Show Host	1984	1987

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Company/Call Letters	Position Held	Year Started	Year Ended
KYBG Radio	Morning Show Host	1988	1992
KHOW Radio	Morning Show Host	1993	2013
KNUS Radio	Morning Show	2013	2026
United Cable	Talk Television Host	1984	1986
KBDI	Colorado Inside Out Live Host	1985	2006

### Description of Merit

#### Contributions to Profession:

Peter Boyles stands as one of the most enduring and influential figures in Colorado broadcasting history. His radio career in Denver dates back to 1970, making him one of the rare broadcasters to have spent his entire career — more than five decades — in a single market. That extraordinary longevity alone speaks to his singular connection with Denver audiences, but it is the breadth and depth of his contributions that cement his legacy.

Few in Denver's market can claim to have done it all in radio. Boyles is one of them — from traffic reporter in the early 1970s to disc jockey in the late 1970s, and one of the most renowned talk show hosts since the 1980s. This range of roles gave him a command of the medium that few broadcasters ever achieve. Over the course of his career, he worked at some of Denver's most iconic signals, including KAAT, KLAK, KWBZ, KYBG, KOA, KHOW, and KNUS — a breadth of experience that traces the full arc of Denver radio's evolution.

Boyles's most defining professional contribution was his transformation of Denver's morning drive radio landscape. In 1994, he landed at KHOW, where he held down the morning-drive slot for nineteen years, building one of the most loyal audiences in the city's radio history. His morning show on KHOW was the number-one rated morning radio program in Denver in both 2010 and 2011. When he moved to KNUS in 2013, he demonstrated that his draw was personal rather than institutional — in his first month at KNUS, Boyles beat his former employer KHOW in audience ratings for the morning slot.

Beyond ratings, Boyles made a lasting contribution to the standard of accountability journalism in local talk radio. He received national attention in 1997 for his investigation and commentary surrounding the death of JonBenét Ramsey, demonstrating that a local broadcaster could drive a nationally significant story through dogged, sustained focus. His willingness to interrogate powerful local figures — from mayors to prosecutors — set a benchmark for civic engagement in Denver broadcasting.

Peter embodies the quintessential ideal of a talk-radio host — someone who, for decades, strove to inform and challenge audiences daily. His personal story also became part of his professional contribution. After spiraling in the wake of the 1984 murder of his close friend and colleague Alan Berg, Boyles overcame a serious substance-abuse problem and has remained clean for more than three decades. His openness about that journey on air offered an example of resilience and authenticity that resonated deeply with listeners and younger broadcasters alike.

Widely dubbed "the Dean of Denver talk show hosts," Boyles has also served as a mentor and standard-bearer for the next generation of Colorado broadcasters. He does not hand out superficial praise, and earning his respect requires demonstrating real mettle over time — a professional ethic that has quietly shaped the careers of those who have worked alongside him.

Even as the radio business has faced mounting challenges in the digital era, Boyles has remained one of its most passionate advocates, insisting that local radio remains essential to the communities it serves. His career is a testament to what dedicated, locally rooted broadcasting can mean to a city — and to the profession — over a lifetime of work.

#### Broadcast Career Highlights:

Peter Boyles's career is marked by a series of landmark moments that trace the full arc of Denver radio history. He first got his footing behind a microphone as a traffic reporter, learning the craft by listening closely to established voices on KIMN, KHOW, and

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KOA — and eventually pitching himself as a one-man traffic operation, saving the station money while earning his first on-air slot. That scrappy, self-made start set the tone for everything that followed.

When Boyles's KHOW morning program ascended to the top of the Denver ratings, it was a quiet surprise to many local radio observers — yet the numbers were unambiguous, with Boyles leading all competition among listeners aged 12 and over, and in the key adult demographics of 35–54 and 45–54. He credited his dominance in part to an unwavering focus on local Colorado stories and personalities at a time when many talk hosts chased national narratives. Then, in one of the more remarkable late-career achievements in Denver broadcasting, Boyles's low-wattage KNUS signal — just 5,000 watts, directional AM — managed to out-rate the 50,000-watt KOA and the well-financed KHOW during the 2020 morning daypart, placing second only to Colorado Public Radio's news affiliate in the final quarter of that year. It was a fitting symbol of a career built not on resources or reach, but on the irreplaceable power of a trusted voice.

### **Broadcast Recognition & Awards:**

1987 Cable Ace Award "Talk Television with Peter Boyles"

### **Local, State, or National Broadcast Activities:**

Colorado MC1 Honor Run for Fallen Officers  
Emily's Parade (Emily Keyes Platte Canyon High School Student)  
Colorado Toy Run for Children's Hospital  
Step 13  
National Sports Center for the Disabled in Winter Park, Wells Fargo Cup

### **Community Service:**

Perhaps Boyles' most personal and far-reaching community contribution has been his openness about his own recovery from addiction. Boyles has written and spoken candidly about his struggles with alcoholism and drug addiction over more than three decades of sobriety, using his public platform to humanize a disease that carries deep stigma. Colleagues have noted that his honesty about overcoming addiction has surely helped others who heard their own struggles reflected in his words — a quiet but meaningful form of public service available only to someone with his stature and authenticity. In a media landscape where public figures routinely guard their vulnerabilities, Boyles's willingness to speak plainly about his darkest chapter has made him a source of hope for countless listeners navigating their own.

Beyond his personal story, Boyles has served the Denver community as a relentless civic watchdog. His willingness to pursue uncomfortable stories — holding mayors, prosecutors, and public officials accountable regardless of political affiliation or personal cost — has been a form of public service in its own right, embodying the role that local radio can and should play in a healthy democracy. Even in retirement, he returned to the airwaves driven by a conviction that radio remains essential to communities, and that an informed public depends on voices willing to engage honestly with the issues of the day.

### **Reason Nominee Should Be Chosen:**

Boyles has spent his entire radio career, dating back to 1970, in the Denver market — a commitment to a single community that is virtually unheard of in a profession defined by mobility. While other broadcasters built careers by chasing opportunities in larger markets, Boyles planted himself in Colorado and grew with it, becoming as much a part of Denver's civic fabric as any elected official or community institution. In all careers and professions, there are trailblazers and there are legends — and as far as Denver radio goes, Peter Boyles is among the last of both.

His ratings record speaks for itself. His morning show was Denver's number-one rated program in 2010 and again in 2011, and late in his career he led a modest 5,000-watt AM signal to ratings that bested far more powerful and well-resourced competitors. When his program ascended to the top of the Denver ratings, it was a quiet surprise to local radio observers — yet the numbers were unambiguous, with Boyles leading all competition among listeners twelve and over and in the key adult demographics. These were not flukes — they were the product of a broadcaster who understood his audience and his community with uncommon depth.

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Beyond the numbers, Boyles has demonstrated a commitment to local journalism and civic accountability that has set a standard for the profession in Colorado. He credited his success in part to an unwavering focus on Colorado stories and personalities at a time when many talk hosts chased national narratives — a philosophy that kept Denver listeners informed, engaged, and invested in their own community. His willingness to challenge powerful figures, pursue difficult stories, and speak uncomfortable truths — regardless of the personal or professional cost — embodied the highest ideals of broadcast journalism.

Colleagues have ranked his impact among the top handful of broadcasters ever to work in the Denver market, and the tributes paid to him by peers across the industry at the time of his retirement reflected the deep and genuine respect he had earned. He is widely known as "the Dean of Denver talk show hosts" — a title that carries with it not just seniority, but authority, admiration, and an acknowledgment of a career that has no real parallel in this market.

The Hall of Fame is ultimately about impact — on the profession, on the community, and on the broadcasters who follow. Peter Boyles has spent more than fifty years delivering on all three. He is not merely a candidate for this honor. He is precisely the kind of broadcaster the Hall of Fame was created to recognize.

## Supporting & Additional Material Uploads

### Recommendation Letters

- [PCalhounLetterCBA.pdf](#)
- [LLarsenLetterCBA.pdf](#)

## Notes



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

added March 26, 2026 at 5:21 pm

WordPress successfully passed the notification email to the sending server.