Team,

These types of announcements are very tough and bittersweet. It is with a heavy heart that I announce that after 42 years in broadcast news that Elbert Tucker will be retiring in early June. I am very excited for Elbert personally however it's the end of working with such a great colleague, friend, and leader. Please help me in congratulating Elbert on an amazing career as we are all better as a team working alongside his stellar leadership.

A native of Chattanooga Tennessee, Elbert had the pleasure of working at his favorite hometown station he watched growing up. Elbert's additional career stops took him to Birmingham, Cincinnati, Columbus, and Indianapolis. His resume is nothing short of exceptional!

I got to WKRN in 2015 and will never forget the first time I met Elbert in 2016. It was apparent that he was a special person a great leader, and I immediately knew that things were about to change. I can tell you first hand that he is the best News Director I have ever been around in my 38-year career in this industry which includes Top 10 and Top 20 markets.

Elbert came to WKRN in 2016 from our Indianapolis station when we were being acquired by Nexstar in early 2017. At that time in the marketplace, we were a distant #3 News organization and Elbert immediately changed the newsrooms culture, game plan, strategy, community outreach with local politicians, townships, and law enforcement. In addition, he coached and guided so many good team players that were previously underappreciated and underutilized into the passionate professionals that would eventually become a dominate #2 Newsroom by 2018. His leadership during COVID was nothing short of selfless and inspiring on navigating through a pandemic with little direction or previous type experience. Elbert has always put people first in the newsroom and his compassion and commitment to the team has always been prevalent from within and outside WKRN.

I am going to miss Elbert's wit, knowledge of Tennessee, knowledge of WWII and the impact Tennessee played, his musical spectrum, and references to great movie lines. Elbert is also an amazing Family man, and I know his wife Janice his daughter Faith and son Reed are looking forward to having more time with him. Elbert has earned and deserves this time.

Hopefully Elbert will now have the time to finish restoring his vintage Camaro.

Please help me in congratulating Elbert on an amazing career and his retirement announcement.

I will be posting his open position this week and will be glad to discuss more in detail what the succession plan looks like …..But today is “Elbert’s Day” and I will touch on the game plan soon. We will be planning a celebration in sending off Elbert in 2nd Quarter more details to follow soon.

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