

Rick-

I just wanted to let you know that tomorrow (Thursday, March 12) will be my last day at WGNO in New Orleans. I've attached an email I sent to the staff a month ago.

Here's a quick snapshot of my career:

1. KSNF Joplin--- Weekend Sports Anchor, Reporter, Producer
2. KOLR Springfield MO -- Executive Producer
3. KTHV Little Rock-- Producer
4. KMOV St Louis -- Producer
5. KSDK St Louis -- Producer
6. WHO TV Des Moines -- Assistant News Director
7. KTVI St Louis -- Executive Producer, Assistant News Director, News Director
8. Frank N. Magid and Associates -- Consultant
9. CNN Newsource -- VP of Sales and Public Relations
10. WGCL Atlanta -- News Director
11. WGNO New Orleans -- News Director

It's been a heck of a ride.

Best-  
Rick

**Rick Erbach**

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**From:** Rick Erbach

**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2026 2:24 PM

**To:** WGNO Everyone

**Cc:** John Walton; Michael Sipes; Marcus Stroud; Chelsea Williams; Gene Kirkconnell; Tai Takahashi; Rod Peterson; Eric Ludgood

**Subject:** Signing Off at WGNO After 16½ Remarkable Years

After 50 wonderful years in the broadcasting industry — including the last 16 and a half years at WGNO-TV — the time has come for me to retire.

When I started as a freshman at WMTH Radio, my high school station in Park Ridge, Illinois, I had no idea where this business would take me. What I did know, even then, was that I was curious. Curious about people. Curious about stories. Curious about how the world works. That curiosity has guided me through 14 different mailing addresses, 12 stations, and five decades of constant change — both professionally and personally.

Broadcasting has transformed dramatically over the years. We've moved from analog to digital, from film to satellite, from typewriters to smartphones, from nightly deadlines to 24/7 news cycles. Change has been the one constant. Rather than resist it, I chose to embrace it. Change challenged me, pushed me to learn, adapt, and grow. It kept me sharp. It kept me humble. And it made me better.

I have been fortunate to work alongside some of the most talented, passionate, and hard-working professionals in our industry. From the newsroom to the control room, from the field to the front office, the people have always been the heart of this business.

Over the years, I've had a front-row seat to history — hurricanes and snowstorms, protests and elections, Mardi Gras celebrations, breaking news that reshaped communities, political conventions, Super Bowls, and National Championships. Each moment reminded me why local journalism matters.

But beyond the big events, what I will treasure most are the relationships — the mentors who guided me, the colleagues who challenged me, the young journalists who inspired me, and the communities who trusted us to tell

their stories. I will continue to watch all your great stories and hard work on WGNO+.

It has been an incredible journey. I am grateful for every opportunity, every lesson, and every newsroom I've called home — especially WGNO, which has been such an important chapter of my career.

While this chapter is closing, my curiosity about the world hasn't changed. I simply look forward to exploring it in new ways. Thank you for allowing me to be part of this remarkable profession for 50 unforgettable years. My last day will be Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>.

— Rick