DON SHELBY
Biographical Sketch - 2011

DON SHELBY has been a reporter and television anchor for 45 years. Before retiring from daily journalism in November of 2010, he worked for 32 years as anchor, investigative reporter and environmental correspondent for WCCO-TV in Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota.

Don is considered the most honored and decorated local television journalist in the country. He has won three national Emmys, the Columbia-duPont, the Scripps-Howard, the National Distinguished Service Award from the Society of Professional Journalists, and has twice won the Pulitzer Prize of broadcasting: The George Foster Peabody. He was honored in 1983 with the top award for investigative reporting by the International Radio and Television News Directors Association. He has been awarded more than two-dozen regional top honors from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, Associated Press and United Press International.

Don was inducted into the Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 2008, and television’s Silver Circle. He was named the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Humanitarian of the Year, and was presented with the Great American Traditions Award from B’nai B’rith. In 2010 Don was named Distinguished Minnesotan, an honor he shares with such luminaries as Sigurd Olson and polar explorer Will Steger.

He has reported from locations spanning the globe. He has reported from Romania, Egypt, Iraq, Venezuela, Australia, and the Arctic Circle – to name a few. He originated the I-Team concept in 1980, and developed Project Energy in 2005. He reported nationally on the Exxon Valdez oil spill, and from the scene of the terrorist attack in Oklahoma City. In 2010 Don reported on the war in Iraq from Contingency Operating Base Basra, Iraq embedded with the 34th “Red Bull” Infantry Division of the Minnesota National Guard which was in operational command of the southern half of that country. Upon completion of the assignment, the Minnesota Adjutant General, Major General Richard Nash, called Shelby, “Our Ernie Pyle,” referring to the famous World War II reporter.
In October 2001, Don began a ten-year term as a drive-time radio personality for WCCO-AM 8-3-0. Don interviewed more than two thousand national newsmakers during that time, and began a weekly segment known as E-Day, in which he dedicated three hours every week to the discussion of alternative energy, global warming, environment, ecology and the new economy of energy efficiency.

Lawmakers have said, for the record, that Don’s public service reporting on these issues paved the way for Minnesota to become one of the nation’s leading states in energy conservation and policy. He is a member of the International Society of Environmental Journalists, and was a member of the board of directors of I-R-E, Investigative Reporters and Editors, the nation’s premier investigative journalism society.

Since his retirement, Don continues his work in environmental journalism, reporting for MinnPost, the on-line daily, and is a member of the Climate Science Rapid Response Team roundtable. He currently serves on the board of Minnesota GreenStar, the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy and is the Capital Campaign Chair for the Washburn Center for Children.

He is the author of *The Season Never Ends*, with a foreword by Tubby Smith, and is currently writing another book on the failure of American journalism to accurately report the facts about global warming.

Don and his wife, Barbara, have been together for nearly forty years, and have three grown daughters, Ashley, Lacy and Delta. Ashley is a journalist and author, Lacy is a landscape architect in New York City, and Delta is a licensed Marriage and Family Counselor. All of his daughters share his love of athletics and nature. You will often find Don somewhere in the BWCA, or on a mountain, sharing nature and its peace with members of his family.

Barbara and Don have three grandchildren, a boy named Hudson and two granddaughters, Josephine and Beatrice.