



**For Immediate Release**

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**HRBMP announces *60 Minutes* and *CBS Evening News* correspondent Byron Pitts as emcee for inaugural Hall of Fame event**



**NORFOLK, Va – (Jan 23, 2013) – Hampton Roads Black Media Professionals** – the region’s oldest and largest organization for minorities in media and communications – announced today that award-winning journalist, author and national broadcast correspondent **Byron Pitts** will be the featured emcee for its inaugural Hall of Fame ceremony on **Saturday, February 16, 2013, in Norfolk, Va.**

Pitts will host the black-tie gala, scheduled to take place at the **Half Moone Cruise and Celebration Center in downtown Norfolk**. In celebration of its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and recognition of Black History Month, HRBMP will be honoring six media luminaries who are distinguished for their contributions to the Hampton

Roads-area media market.

“We are proud to have such a prominent, national figure to host our Hall of Fame event,” says HRBMP President Cheryl Ross of Pitts. “In fact, he said he was honored we were giving him an opportunity to give back to a community he once called home.”

A multi-Emmy award winner, Pitts began his career in Hampton Roads as a military reporter for WAVY-TV 10 in the mid-1980s. After working as a news reporter in various large East Coast cities, Pitts became a *CBS News* correspondent working out of Miami and Atlanta bureaus before moving to New York in January 2001. Months later, he became a lead reporter on the Sept. 11 attacks, for which he won his first Emmy for his coverage.

Since 9/11, Pitts has reported on major world news events such as Hurricane Katrina and the War on Terror in Afghanistan and Iraq. In addition to winning six Emmys, he has also won four Associated Press awards and was named Journalist of the Year in 2002 by the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ). HRBMP is a chapter member of NABJ.

Pitts is currently a chief national correspondent for the *CBS Evening News* and contributor to the long-running news magazine show *60 Minutes*. He is also the author of the 2009 book *Step Out on Nothing: How Faith and Family Helped Me Conquer Life's Challenges*, which chronicles his life from a disadvantaged youth to a successful journalist.

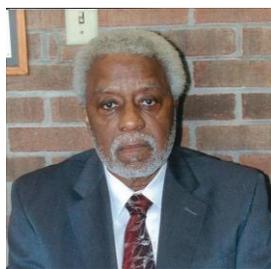
## ***2013 Inaugural Hall of Fame Proposed Inductees***



**Barbara Ciara** is an award winning broadcast journalist with a thirty plus year career of distinguished service to the profession and to her community. She has served as a president of HRBMP and Regional Director and president of NABJ. Barbara has been instrumental in many fundraising and other efforts when leadership was needed. She has worked in her newsrooms over the years to help maintain diversity in the newsroom and has brought numerous young communications professionals of color into HRBMP. She is well-respected throughout the community and beyond. Barbara is a co-founder of HRBMP, then known as Tidewater Black Media Professionals.



**Marvin Lake** has been a trailblazer in the print journalism community--particularly at The Virginian-Pilot where he had a long and distinguished career spanning more than 30 years. He is well-known and respected throughout the community. During his working career, he led recruitment efforts at the Pilot and was instrumental in the hiring of numerous journalists of color--adding diversity to the ranks of one of Virginia's top newspapers. Marvin has also taught countless students how to write through his teaching at Norfolk State--setting the stage for new journalists to enter the profession. He is a former HRBMP president and has been a member for more than 25 years. Marvin is a co-founder of HRBMP, then known as Tidewater Black Media Professionals.



**James Wright** is one of the founding members of HRBMP. He was one of the first--if not the first--African-American photojournalist at WAVY-TV10--breaking new ground in the 1980s and serving as a role model for future photojournalists of color. He has been an active member of the organization since its founding--attending meetings regularly and serving as the organization's first and only treasurer. His presence and input at the meetings inspire a new generation of young people to pursue their dreams as he is a living example of what you can achieve if you are diligent and have passion for your craft.



**Brenda Andrews**--almost single handedly--is keeping one of America's oldest black newspapers afloat. As editor and publisher of The New Journal and Guide, Brenda leads a small, but committed staff, who work each week to produce both a print and online edition of this newspaper which is a staple in the African-American community in Hampton Roads. Over the past thirty plus years, Andrews has given

many journalists--including some who have gone on to write for national publications--the opportunity to hone their craft as interns and staff writers. She serves as a role model for men, women, and children as she carries the torch for the African-American press. She has been a member of HRBMP over the years and honored HRBMP in the inaugural New Journal and Guide Hall of Fame.



**Delceno Miles** has been a "go to" leader in the public relations field in Hampton Roads for more than 25 years. Through her company--The Miles Agency--Delceno has worked with companies both large and small, both majority and minority, to work through public relations issues and concerns affecting relationships in Hampton Roads. In doing so, she has set the standard for professionalism within the African-American and mainstream public relations community. She has mentored many young people who have interned with her company over the years. She has also been a member of HRBMP, taking the lead when asked by developing and executing professional development workshops to help the organization with its fundraising efforts. Delceno is the recipient of the President's Award. Her work was instrumental in securing HRBMP's second Chapter of the Year Award.



**Dr. Grady H. James** is professor emeritus of broadcasting at Norfolk State University, having taught there for 40 years prior to his retirement in 2000. During that time, James, who was also a former head of the mass communications department, hosted a televised coaches and highlight show featuring NSU athletes, leading to increased awareness for Spartan athletics. His love of photography combined with his love of teaching, led many a student to pursue a career in photography. An avid photographer, he continues to volunteer his time to document through photography all types of events – especially sporting events – without being asked and often without being paid. He was inducted into the Virginia Communications Hall of Fame in 2007. Over the years, James has been and is currently a member of HRBMP.

## About HRBMP

Hampton Roads Black Media Professionals, Inc. is a nonprofit network of communicators serving as a liaison between the Hampton Roads African-American community and the media, and it is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. These purposes are to:

- Provide the African-American community with professional insight into media coverage and operations.
- Serve as role models and mentors to students interested in media-related careers.
- Support the career development of media professionals.
- Create and fund scholarships to be awarded annually to eligible minority students pursuing media-related degrees.

Through community workshops, speaking engagements and special events, the organization serves as a resource for a variety of commercial and nonprofit organizations. Its members are TV reporters, print reporters, editors, news photographers, mass communications educators, graphic artists, public relations professionals, freelancers, marketing and advertising professionals, media managers and internet content developers. More information about HRBMP can be found at [www.hrbmp.us](http://www.hrbmp.us).

Since 1989, HRBMP has awarded more than \$125,000 in scholarships and grants to African-American college students, local colleges and other worthy causes.

The chapter recently won three grants, including one which was used to produce a journalism workshop for middle and high school kids.

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