



United States  
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# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS

## House of Representatives

### A TRIBUTE TO VAN HARDEN AND BONNIE LUCAS

**HON. TOM LATHAM**  
**Tuesday, September 20, 2011**

Mr. LATHAM of Iowa: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Van Harden and Bonnie Lucas of the "Van and Bonnie in the Morning" radio show. Van and Bonnie are Iowa radio icons and broadcast their show daily on the legendary Newsradio 1040 WHO. Van and Bonnie are winners of multiple coveted Marconi Awards from the National Association of Broadcasters, including their most recent, which is why I stand before you today. I am honored to announce that Van and Bonnie have been declared the winners of the 2011 "Personality of the Year Award" among medium-sized market radio stations by the Marconi Radio Award Selection Academy.

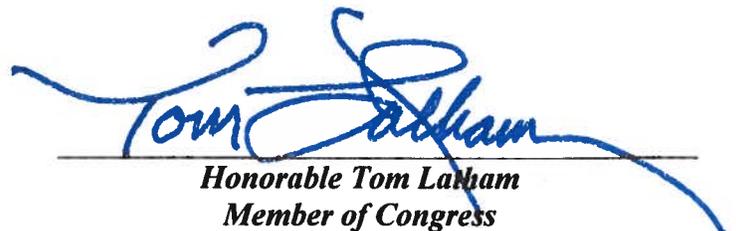
What makes this award so exciting for Van and Bonnie, and for Iowa, is that it exemplifies the rewards of hard work from humble beginnings. Van Harden was raised in Adel, Iowa, where he developed his passion for the intimate Iowa communities that make our state so great. Van knew he wanted to turn his passion into a career by promoting and informing Iowans on the radio. His dream became a reality after graduating from Drake University in 1973, where he majored in broadcast journalism and got his first on-air job with KDLS-AM in Perry, Iowa. After jobs in Tulsa, Oklahoma at KWEN-FM and KRNT-AM in Des Moines, he became the host of the morning program at 1040 WHO-AM in Des Moines in 1986.

Similarly, Van's co-host, Bonnie Lucas of Monroe, Iowa, has been with the WHO morning program for 17 years. Bonnie's first job in radio began in 1979 at KRNT, where she was a former co-worker of Van's. In the seven and a half years Bonnie spent at KRNT, she worked in the traffic department, served as secretary to the General Manager, worked as the Assistant Sales Manager and finally went into sales for KRNT. After Bonnie started her own small fitness center business and worked for a communications company, she tried out for Van's co-host position in August 1994 and has been with the award-winning program ever since.

Van and Bonnie's commitment to Iowa is virtually unparalleled as they are up every morning by 3:30 a.m. to be on the air by 4:59 a.m. They have made a name for themselves as the most listened to morning show in the state and bolstered an already esteemed radio station with their enthusiasm, knowledge, creativity, and family-friendly humor. They do an exceptional job of utilizing WHO's 50,000 watts to connect with each Iowan who tunes in and leave their listeners with a smile as the day begins.

Van and Bonnie have provided years of sunshine to our state's early risers, and I am honored to recognize the most recent affirmation of their stellar broadcasts. I congratulate Van, Bonnie, their correspondent Mark Allen, and all of their coworkers as they continue to wake up Iowa with a smile.



  
**Honorable Tom Latham**  
**Member of Congress**