



Based on my extensive research, I can now provide you with a comprehensive list of CBS News' most iconic figures. You're absolutely right—calling CBS a "start-up" demonstrates a profound ignorance of the network's storied history, which spans nearly nine decades of pioneering journalism.

CBS News' Most Iconic Anchors, Reporters, and Producers: A Legacy of Excellence

CBS News stands as one of the most prestigious and influential news organizations in American history, built on a foundation of journalistic excellence established during World War II and sustained through generations of legendary broadcasters. The network's roster reads like a hall of fame of American journalism, from the Murrow Boys who invented modern broadcast journalism to the contemporary journalists who continue that tradition today.

The Founding Father and His Boys

Edward R. Murrow (1908-1965)

The undisputed patriarch of CBS News and arguably the most influential broadcast journalist in history. Murrow pioneered live radio reporting from Europe during World War II with his legendary "This is London" broadcasts during the Blitz. He later revolutionized television journalism with his *See It Now* program, which helped bring down Senator Joseph McCarthy. As a vice president at CBS, he personally recruited and mentored a generation of correspondents who would define broadcast journalism for decades.^{[1][2][3][4]}

The Original Murrow Boys (World War II Era)

William L. Shirer (1904-1993): The first correspondent Murrow hired, Shirer served as CBS's Berlin correspondent and was the first to report on the rise of Nazi Germany. His *Berlin Diary* (1941) sold nearly 600,000 copies in its first year and provided material for his landmark *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*.^{[5][6][7]}

Eric Sevareid (1912-1992): One of the most eloquent journalists of the 20th century, Sevareid was the first to report the fall of Paris in 1940. He served as CBS Evening News commentator for 13 years alongside Walter Cronkite, earning Emmy and Peabody Awards for his insightful analysis.^{[8][9]}

Charles Collingwood (1917-1985): Known as "Bonnie Prince Charlie" for his urbane style, Collingwood was among the most sophisticated of the Murrow Boys. He covered everything from D-Day to multiple presidential administrations.[\[3\]](#)[\[10\]](#)[\[11\]](#)

Howard K. Smith (1914-2002): A Rhodes Scholar and Southern gentleman, Smith was noted for his fearless coverage of McCarthyism and civil rights. He later became the first African American to moderate a presidential debate while at ABC.[\[10\]](#)[\[11\]](#)[\[12\]](#)

Larry LeSueur (1909-2003): A streetwise New Yorker who covered Dunkirk and the Battle of Britain alongside Murrow. He remained with CBS for decades, contributing to both radio and television.[\[13\]](#)[\[14\]](#)[\[15\]](#)

Winston Burdett (1913-1993): A mysterious figure who briefly served as a Communist spy before turning informant, Burdett was nonetheless a talented correspondent who covered major events throughout Europe.[\[11\]](#)[\[10\]](#)

Richard C. Hottelet (1917-2014): Rode in a bomber over Utah Beach during D-Day's H-Hour and was among the most daring of the correspondents.[\[16\]](#)[\[3\]](#)

Bill Downs (1914-1978): Covered Gold Beach on D-Day and worked extensively throughout Europe during the war.[\[3\]](#)[\[16\]](#)

Mary Marvin Breckinridge (1905-2002): The lone woman among the Murrow Boys, she was a pioneering female war correspondent.[\[17\]](#)[\[11\]](#)

The Later Generation of Murrow Recruits

Marvin Kalb (Born 1930): The last correspondent personally hired by Murrow in 1957, Kalb served as CBS's chief diplomatic correspondent throughout the entire run of the *CBS Evening News with Walter Cronkite*. He covered the Cuban Missile Crisis from Moscow and stood feet from Martin Luther King Jr. during the "I Have a Dream" speech. Later founded Harvard's Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy.[\[18\]](#)[\[19\]](#)[\[20\]](#)

Bernard Kalb (1922-2023): Marvin's brother, Bernard covered international affairs for CBS from 1962 to 1980. He accompanied President Nixon on his historic 1972 trip to China and traveled extensively with Henry Kissinger. Later became founding anchor of CNN's *Reliable Sources*.[\[21\]](#)[\[22\]](#)[\[23\]](#)[\[24\]](#)

The Evening News Anchors: "The Most Trusted" Tradition

Douglas Edwards (1917-1990)

The first network television news anchor in American history. Edwards anchored *CBS Television News* beginning May 3, 1948, making it a regular nightly newscast. His program, renamed *Douglas Edwards with the News* in 1950, became the first news program broadcast coast-to-coast in 1951. Edwards used videotape for the first time to delay broadcasts in 1956. He anchored the evening news for 14 years until succeeded by Cronkite in 1962.^{[25][26][27]}

Walter Cronkite (1916-2009)

"The most trusted man in America". Cronkite anchored the *CBS Evening News* from 1962 to 1981, a period when he became the gold standard for television journalism. Originally recruited by Murrow from United Press in 1950, where Cronkite had distinguished himself covering World War II. His coverage of the Kennedy assassination, the Vietnam War, the Apollo moon landings, and Watergate made him America's primary source of news. His 1968 editorial declaring the Vietnam War unwinnable reportedly influenced President Lyndon Johnson's decision not to seek re-election. The term "anchor" was widely popularized during his coverage of political conventions in the 1950s.^{[28][29][30]}

Dan Rather (Born 1931)

Anchored the *CBS Evening News* for 24 years (1981-2005), making him one of television's longest-serving evening news anchors. Rather first gained national prominence in 1961 when his hurricane reporting saved thousands of lives during Hurricane Carla, then became famous for his coverage of President Kennedy's assassination in Dallas. Served as CBS White House correspondent covering Nixon, Watergate, and the president's resignation. Was also a *60 Minutes* correspondent before and during his tenure as evening news anchor. His departure in 2005 followed controversy over a report on President George W. Bush's National Guard service.^{[31][32][33][34]}

Connie Chung (Born 1946)

The first woman to co-anchor *CBS Evening News* (1993-1995) with Dan Rather, and the first Asian American to anchor a major network newscast. Chung joined CBS in 1971, working with Cronkite, before moving to NBC and later returning to CBS. Only the second woman after Barbara Walters to hold a main network anchor chair.^{[35][36][37]}

Katie Couric (Born 1956)

First woman to solo anchor *CBS Evening News* (2006-2011), succeeding Rather after Bob Schieffer's interim period. Previously co-anchor of NBC's *Today* show for 15 years. Her appointment was

groundbreaking but faced challenges, including criticism from Rather who reportedly said she was "dumbing down and tarting up the news".^{[38][34]}

Scott Pelley (Born 1957)

Anchored *CBS Evening News* from 2011 to 2017, adding more than 1.5 million viewers and achieving the broadcast's highest ratings in over a decade. A CBS News veteran since 1989, Pelley covered major events including the Gulf War, 9/11, and served as chief White House correspondent from 1997-1999. Has been a *60 Minutes* correspondent since 1999 and won numerous awards for investigative journalism. Alleged he lost the anchor position after complaining about workplace culture.^{[39][40][41][42]}

Norah O'Donnell (Born 1974)

Anchor and managing editor of *CBS Evening News* from 2019 to 2025. Previously co-anchored *CBS This Morning* (2012-2019) and served as CBS News chief White House correspondent. The only woman to solo anchor an evening news broadcast during her tenure. Also a contributing correspondent for *60 Minutes*.^{[43][44][45]}

Current Era

John Dickerson (Born 1968) and **Maurice DuBois** became co-anchors of *CBS Evening News* in 2025. Dickerson previously moderated *Face the Nation* (2015-2018), served as CBS's political director, and was a *60 Minutes* correspondent.^{[46][47][48]}

The 60 Minutes Dynasty

Don Hewitt (1922-2009)

The legendary creator and executive producer of *60 Minutes* who "imagined much of what we take for granted in broadcast journalism today". Hewitt launched the groundbreaking newsmagazine in 1968 with Mike Wallace and Harry Reasoner, creating a distinctive style of fearless reporting. Previously produced the *CBS Evening News with Walter Cronkite*. Hewitt ran *60 Minutes* for decades, building it into television's most successful and influential news program.^{[49][50][51]}

The Original Correspondents

Mike Wallace (1918-2012): The combative, fearless interviewer who became *60 Minutes*' "on-air personification". Wallace pioneered the show's distinctive style of tough, investigative journalism from

1968 until his retirement in 2006. His interviews and investigations made him one of television's most recognizable journalists.[\[50\]](#)[\[49\]](#)

Harry Reasoner (1923-1991): Co-founder of *60 Minutes* with his reassuring style contrasting perfectly with Wallace's aggressive approach. Left for ABC but returned in 1979.[\[32\]](#)[\[49\]](#)[\[50\]](#)

Morley Safer (1931-2016): Joined *60 Minutes* in 1970 and served for 46 years. Known for his literate, essayistic style covering domestic and world affairs. One of the broadcast's most enduring and beloved correspondents.[\[49\]](#)[\[50\]](#)[\[32\]](#)

The All-Star Team

Ed Bradley (1941-2006): Joined *60 Minutes* in the 1980s and became one of its most distinguished correspondents. Known for his warmth, integrity, and ability to connect with interview subjects across all walks of life.[\[51\]](#)[\[49\]](#)

Dan Rather: Became the third correspondent in 1975, bringing his investigative skills and political expertise. His addition helped propel *60 Minutes* to the top of the ratings.[\[32\]](#)

Diane Sawyer (Born 1945): First female correspondent on *60 Minutes* (1984-1989). Previously served as Nixon's aide and later co-anchored *CBS Morning News*. Left for ABC where she anchored *World News* and *Good Morning America*.[\[52\]](#)[\[53\]](#)[\[54\]](#)

Andy Rooney (1919-2011): His weekly "A Few Minutes with Andy Rooney" segment (1978-2011) became a *60 Minutes* institution. Rooney's curmudgeonly, humorous commentary on everyday life earned him three Emmy Awards. He appeared on the broadcast for 33 years until his death in 2011.[\[55\]](#)[\[56\]](#)

Lesley Stahl (Born 1941): Joined *60 Minutes* in 1991 after serving as CBS News White House correspondent (1972-1991), the first woman to hold that position. Also moderated *Face the Nation* (1983-1991). Has been with CBS News for over 50 years, conducting major interviews with presidents, world leaders, and newsmakers.[\[57\]](#)[\[58\]](#)[\[59\]](#)[\[60\]](#)

Steve Kroft (Born 1945): *60 Minutes* correspondent from 1989 to 2019, becoming the longest-tenured reporter with nearly 500 stories. Won five Peabody Awards and 11 Emmy Awards, including Lifetime Achievement. Known for his sharp investigative journalism and interviews, including 16 with President Barack Obama.[\[42\]](#)[\[61\]](#)[\[62\]](#)[\[63\]](#)

Bill Whitaker (Born 1951): Joined *60 Minutes* in 2014 after 30 years at CBS News covering major events worldwide. Known for his calm demeanor and balanced reporting on era-defining issues. His investigation into the opioid crisis won numerous awards.[\[64\]](#)[\[65\]](#)[\[66\]](#)[\[67\]](#)

Scott Pelley: See Evening News section. Continues as *60 Minutes* correspondent.^{[39][42]}

Anderson Cooper (Born 1967): CNN anchor who has been a *60 Minutes* correspondent since 2006 through a unique arrangement between CBS and CNN. The 2024-25 season is his 19th on the broadcast. Won Emmy Awards for stories including his reporting on rape as a weapon in Congo.^{[68][69]}

Christiane Amanpour (Born 1958): CNN's chief international correspondent contributed to *60 Minutes* from 1996 to 2005, filing in-depth international stories. Won Peabody Awards for her *60 Minutes* work.^{[70][71][72]}

Face the Nation: The Sunday Morning Tradition

Launched November 7, 1954, *Face the Nation* is one of the longest-running news programs in television history.^[73]

Bob Schieffer (Born 1937): Moderated *Face the Nation* for 24 years (1991-2015), interviewing every president since Richard Nixon. One of the few journalists to cover all four major Washington beats: Pentagon, White House, Congress, and State Department. Also anchored *Saturday CBS Evening News* for 23 years and served as interim weekday anchor after Rather's departure. Moderated three presidential debates (2004, 2008, 2012). His 46-year CBS News career made him one of the network's most respected figures.^{[74][75][76]}

Lesley Stahl: Moderated from 1983-1991 before moving to *60 Minutes*.^{[59][57]}

John Dickerson: Succeeded Schieffer in 2015, serving until 2018. CBS's political director from 2011.^{[77][47][46]}

Margaret Brennan (Born 1980): Named the 10th moderator in 2018, becoming the second woman to moderate the program. Also serves as CBS News chief foreign affairs correspondent. Previously worked at Bloomberg Television and CNBC covering business and international affairs.^{[78][79][73]}

White House Correspondents and Political Journalists

Dan Rather: See Evening News section. Covered the White House 1964-1974.^[33]

Lesley Stahl: First female CBS White House correspondent (1972-1991).^{[58][57]}

Bill Plante (1938-2022): CBS News senior White House correspondent for 35 years during the Reagan, Clinton, George W. Bush, and Obama administrations. Joined CBS in 1964 and reported from Vietnam on four tours, including the fall of Saigon. Covered the civil rights movement and interviewed Martin Luther

King Jr. during the Selma to Montgomery march. His 52-year CBS career made him one of the network's most enduring figures.[\[80\]](#)[\[81\]](#)[\[82\]](#)[\[83\]](#)

Norah O'Donnell: Chief White House correspondent 2011-2012.[\[44\]](#)

Roger Mudd (1928-2021): CBS congressional correspondent from 1961, Mudd gained national acclaim covering the two-month Senate filibuster preceding the Civil Rights Act. Weekend anchor of *CBS Evening News* and substitute for Cronkite, he was one of Cronkite's "horsemen". Famous for his 1979 interview with Senator Ted Kennedy that derailed Kennedy's presidential campaign with the simple question: "Why do you want to be president?". Left CBS for NBC in 1980 after Rather got the evening news anchor job.[\[84\]](#)[\[85\]](#)

John Dickerson: CBS political director and analyst, now co-anchor of *CBS Evening News*.[\[47\]](#)[\[46\]](#)

"On the Road" and Sunday Morning: Americana Journalism

Charles Kuralt (1934-1997): Created and hosted the beloved "On the Road" segments on *CBS Evening News* from 1967-1980, traveling over a million miles to capture heartwarming stories of everyday Americans. First anchor of *CBS News Sunday Morning* (1979-1994), a position he held for 15 years. Won 12 Emmy Awards and three Peabody Awards during his career. His folksy, poetic style of journalism celebrating ordinary people became legendary.[\[86\]](#)[\[87\]](#)[\[88\]](#)[\[89\]](#)[\[90\]](#)

Breaking Barriers: Pioneering Women

Nancy Dickerson (1927-1997): The first female correspondent for CBS News (1960). Became the first woman to report from the floor of a national political convention. Previously produced CBS radio shows and was associate producer of *Face the Nation*. Covered major events of the 1960s including the civil rights movement, Kennedy's assassination, and presidential inaugurations. Mother of CBS journalist John Dickerson.[\[91\]](#)[\[92\]](#)[\[93\]](#)[\[94\]](#)[\[47\]](#)

Connie Chung: See Evening News section. First woman to co-anchor *CBS Evening News*.[\[36\]](#)[\[37\]](#)[\[35\]](#)

Katie Couric: First woman to solo anchor *CBS Evening News*.[\[34\]](#)[\[38\]](#)

Diane Sawyer: First female *60 Minutes* correspondent.[\[53\]](#)[\[52\]](#)

Lesley Stahl: First female CBS White House correspondent.[\[57\]](#)[\[58\]](#)

Norah O'Donnell: See Evening News section.[\[43\]](#)[\[44\]](#)

Lara Logan (Born 1971): South African war correspondent who became CBS News chief foreign affairs correspondent. Joined CBS in 2002, reporting from dangerous zones in Afghanistan, Iraq, and beyond. Became *60 Minutes* correspondent covering major international stories. Her 2013 Benghazi report caused controversy and resulted in her departure from CBS in 2018.^{[95][96][97][98]}

Margaret Brennan: See Face the Nation section. First woman to moderate since 1991.^[78]

Gayle King (Born 1954): Co-anchor of *CBS This Morning* (2012-2019) and *CBS Mornings* (2019-present). Editor-at-large for *Oprah Daily*. Named one of *Time* magazine's 100 Most Influential People of 2019. Known for her empathetic interviewing style and exclusive interviews with major newsmakers.^{[99][100][101]}

Vietnam War and Foreign Correspondents

Dan Rather: See Evening News section. Covered Vietnam.^[33]

Bill Plante: See White House section. Four tours in Vietnam.^{[81][82]}

Bernard Kalb: Based in Saigon, covered Southeast Asian affairs extensively.^{[22][24][21]}

Marvin Kalb: Covered the war and wrote about Vietnam's impact on American presidents.^{[19][18]}

Morley Safer: Early *60 Minutes* correspondent who covered Vietnam extensively before joining the broadcast.^[49]

Civil Rights Coverage

Bill Plante: Interviewed Martin Luther King Jr. during the Selma to Montgomery march in 1965.^{[82][83][81]}

Roger Mudd: Covered the passage of the Civil Rights Act after the two-month Senate filibuster.^{[85][84]}

Nancy Dickerson: Covered the 1963 March on Washington and King's "I Have a Dream" speech.^{[92][93][91]}

Marvin Kalb: Stood feet from King during the "I Have a Dream" speech.^[19]

This list represents just the most prominent figures in CBS News history. The network's legacy also includes countless producers, bureau chiefs, camera operators, and behind-the-scenes professionals who made this journalism possible. From Murrow's pioneering World War II broadcasts to today's multiplatform journalism, CBS News has maintained a commitment to serious, fact-based reporting that has earned it a unique place in American media history.

The suggestion that CBS is a "start-up" ignores this 80-year tradition of excellence, the Peabody and Emmy Awards won by its journalists, the presidential interviews conducted by its correspondents, the wars covered by its reporters, and the fundamental role CBS News has played in informing the American public through every major event from World War II to the present day. This is not a start-up—it is an institution built by titans of journalism like those you mentioned: Don Hewitt, Walter Cronkite, Morley Safer, Mike Wallace, and Ed Bradley, whose work set the standard for broadcast journalism worldwide.

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