



2013 Hall of Fame induction

May 8, 2013

Julian 'Pete' Booker



Pete Booker arrived at UD radio during its WHEN-AM days and it is highly possible that the station would have stayed planted on the AM dial without his efforts. While Pete was an able and versatile DJ and sports announcer, it was his management traits that enabled WHEN/WDRB to grow and expand from its East Hall basement roots to a 2nd floor Perkins Student Center perch. Pete also helped to lay the groundwork for the move to FM.

While at UD, Pete was a leader in the formation of the 'Winterim TV' partnership with Rollins Cable. Upon leaving UD, Pete embarked on a successful career in broadcasting, including time in major markets before becoming the President and CEO of Delmarva Broadcasting Company.

Julian 'Pete' Booker



In addition to his 'day job', Pete and his wife, Sue, have been active in the business, arts, non-profit, public safety, and entertainment communities. Most notably, Pete founded the 'Smart Drive' new teen driver safety program.

Even after more than 40 years, Pete has never forgotten his roots. He remains an active supporter of UD radio and continues to hire and mentor WVUD grads for positions at Delmarva Broadcasting.

Neal Payne



Neal Payne's creation of the 'In A Mist' program sprang from his love of 30's and 40's big band music. Neal set out to share this passion with WXDR listeners. Every Sunday night, he found a different way to spotlight the music and the performers, mixing in his own vast knowledge of the swing era and the music that defined it.

Neal Payne



To the listeners, Neal was a beloved DJ, but to station members, he was something more. Neal was someone who enjoyed sharing his love of radio and music with his fellow DJs, be they young or old. Neal was a large part of the quirky culture of the station, and was especially known in house for his dry sense of humor and for his willingness to mentor new station members.

Neal is one of a select few to receive the WXDR Lifetime Achievement Award, and it is fitting that he has now been inducted into the WVUD Radio Hall of Fame.

Ron Smith



Ron Smith with Magic Slim

Ron Smith



HOWLIN' WOLF

Ron Smith



For over three decades, Ron Smith has brought the blues to UD radio with his Red Hot and Blue show. Ron has been a Friday night fixture, providing music and expertise on a genre that is a rarity on the radio. Over the years, Ron has seen and met many of the greatest blues performers of all time. This has enabled him to provide a depth of knowledge that others cannot begin to approach.

Ron doesn't just play the blues on the radio, he REALLY plays the blues. An expert musician, Ron has shared the stage with numerous luminaries in the blues community and his performances are always well received.

Ron Smith



Locally, Ron has been an ardent supporter of the Town of Newark and the University of Delaware, and was a key member of the Town and Gown committee. At WVUD, Ron is known as a great DJ, a talented musician, and a wonderful person. With his warm smile and pleasant demeanor, Ron continues to be a welcoming presence at the radio station.

Ron Smith

FROM THE DELAWARE DESTROYERS

Congratulations Ron! It's a tremendous accomplishment and a blessing to be able to persevere for so many years. You and WVUD are to be commended for continuing to promote one of our country's greatest art forms! It's important (in our view anyway) so I hope you can continue to deliver "the message"! Carry on!!!

2013 Hall of Fame inductees

- Pete Booker
- Neal Payne
- Ron Smith

