



PRESS RELEASE

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AJHA recognizes pair of history-making journalists with Local Journalist Award

The American Journalist Historians Associated plans to honor two stalwarts of Tampa-St. Petersburg media when AJHA visits the Bay area for its annual national convention Oct. 6-8.

AJHA will honor Pulitzer-prize-winning journalist Lucy Morgan, of the St. Petersburg Times, along with Denise White, an Emmy-nominated veteran broadcast journalist, with the Outstanding Local Journalist Award for Substantial Contribution to the Public Interest. AJHA annually bestows this honor on journalists local to the convention city whose work has had a positive impact on the community.

Morgan, a Memphis native, started her newspaper career in 1965 at the Ocala Star Banner, but moved to the St. Petersburg Times in 1968. In 1973, Morgan grabbed worldwide attention when she was jailed for eight months after refusing twice to divulge the identity of a news source. In 1976, the Florida Supreme Court overturned the sentence and granted reporters a limited right to protect confidential sources. This landmark case continues to provide protection for reporters who refuse to divulge the names of sources. Morgan shared the 1985 Pulitzer Prize for Investigative Reporting with Jack Reed for a series that led to the ouster of the Pasco County Sheriff. In 1982, she was runner up for Pulitzer in local reporting for a series of stories on drug smuggling and public corruption in Dixie and Taylor counties.

More than 25 years ago, White became the first African-American to anchor a 5 p.m. newscast in Tampa Bay, where she was also a fixture on WTVT's Fox 13 News at Noon. White's 5 p.m. newscast consistently ranked atop the market. White has done special reporting on key social issues, including a series on homelessness and the plight of grandmothers left to raise their grandchildren. For more than two decades, her signature Black History Month stories profiled local history makers in Tampa Bay.

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After starting her career in Virginia, White moved to Orlando's WFTV, then Miami's WSVN Channel 7, as a reporter and anchor. At WSVN, White received an Emmy nomination for spot news coverage of an emergency plane landing in Miami. She also played an informant on Miami Vice in exchange for a behind-the-scenes story on the hit show. In retirement, White anchors a program covering life at the University of South Florida on WUSF.

Morgan and White will be honored during AJHA's opening reception on Thursday, Oct. 6, at the Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront.

Founded in 1981, the American Journalism Historians Association seeks to advance education and research in mass communication history. Members work to raise historical standards and ensure that all scholars and students recognize the vast importance of media history and apply this knowledge to the advancement of society. For more information on AJHA, visit <http://www.ajhaonline.org>.

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