

Thomas P. Chisman
Advertising Federation of Greater Hampton Roads
1983 Silver Medal Award Honoree



The recipient of the 20th Silver Medal Award, presented in 1983 by the Advertising Federation of Greater Hampton Roads, was Thomas P. Chisman.

Chisman, who stepped down as Chairman of the Board of WVEC-TV 13 in 1986, began his broadcast career as founder and general manager of WVEC-AM. He parlayed that regional AM radio station into a UHF television station (channel 15) in September 1953.

Originally an NBC affiliate, WVEC-TV moved to channel 13 and became an ABC affiliate in 1959. Chisman remained as the station's president and general manager when he sold WVEC-TV to Dun and Bradstreet in 1980. He was appointed Chairman of the Board of WVEC-TV, Inc. when AH Belo Company purchased the station in 1984.

A native of Hampton, Chisman served on more than 40 community and public service committees including Chairman of the Development Committee of the Eastern Virginia Medical Foundation and Founding and Executive Committee Member of the Future of Hampton Roads, Inc. He was the first Chairman of the Board and President of the Virginia Air and Space Center & Hampton Roads History Center.

In addition, he was responsible for giving free air time in the 1950s to the Norfolk and Hampton School Boards, which led to the establishment of WHRO-TV (channel 15) and educational television in Virginia.

Chisman was Past Chairman of the American Broadcasting Company Affiliates Board of Governors and a Past President of the Virginia Association of Broadcasters. He also was the first recipient of the Distinguished Service Award given by the Virginia Association of Broadcasters in 1970.

Thomas P. Chisman died on November 22, 1991. In 1992, he was inducted into the Virginia Communications Hall of Fame.