

CONNIE ALEXANDER

Connie Alexander became a nationally known play-by-play announcer for the CBS Radio Network after starting his career at Albuquerque High School, then being Dukes p.a. announcer for \$2 a game. At 19, he got on local radio calling high school sports, UNM basketball and Dukes baseball (he played baseball at UNM). At 21, his career was interrupted for four years military service in the Korean War.

His CBS work included major college bowls and the NFL Pro Bowl and playoffs. He set a record for most radio broadcasts of the Cotton Bowl (ten straight on CBS). One of them featured Joe Montana's fabled 1979 performance, perhaps the most dramatic by a Notre Dame player since George Gipp in 1920. He announced collegiate football's 100th anniversary national championship game. President Nixon helicoptered in, and Billy Graham gave the invocation. He was at the mike for ten Texas-Oklahoma football games and eight Sun Bowls (six on CBS and two on national/regional TV). For 13 years, his broadcasts were carried worldwide on the American Forces Network (350 stations and 70 ships at sea). He covered NCAA Regional basketball tournaments for 13 years on the NCAA, ESPN and TVS television networks, working as telecast partner in 1976 with just-retired UCLA coach John Wooden, winner of ten national championships.

He was the long-time "Voice of the Southwest Conference" as lead announcer of the 14-announcer Exxon Football Network, the world's oldest radio series (44 years). At the same time, he was the "Voice of the WAC" on the Western Athletic Conference Basketball Game of the Week on TVS, in association with NBC Sports. As a freelance announcer, he broadcast on 12 different networks, including 20 years of regional coverage, traveling coast to coast. He was simultaneously a bank vice president. He described Lobo football and basketball games on radio and TV a total of 13 years. His broadcasts contained more information than typical broadcasts. He developed advanced methods, and was known for knowledgeable, accurate, exciting and unique descriptions. He won Sportscaster of the Year awards for two states-Texas and New Mexico.

He is co-founder and first president of the Albuquerque Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He volunteers on many civic projects, including Metropolitan Redevelopment and "Drug-Free Residential Zone" legislation. He led some 50 anti-drug marches against crack houses, experiencing gunfire on the third march.

His family includes daughters, Amy and Lynn, son Gregg, six grandchildren and his mother, Thelma (95 years young).