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NATAS

hosted bands at his home whenever their tour stopped in the Bay Area.

His affinity for puns, quick wit, and self-deprecating humor were hallmarks of his character.

"Brian was a beloved character in our newsroom. He will be greatly missed by the entire staff," said KRON 4 News Director **Aaron Pero**.

KRON 4 contributed to this report.

DuHain Wraps Up 46 Years at KCRA

Joining Station in 1969, Newsman Did It All

By Joyce Mitchell
Chapter Governor, Sacramento

Veteran Sacramento newsman **Tom DuHain** has just about done it all in the world of television news. He's traveled the globe, covered nuclear investigative stories and reported on AIDS behind the rigid walls of California's Vacaville State Prison back in the early 1980s.

"At three times on different stories, I had guns pointed at me by soldiers," DuHain said.

After 46 years at KCRA, Sacramento's NBC affiliate, DuHain is stepping away from the daily grind of news.

"It's a little weird to be disconnected from KCRA," DuHain said. "I had such a strong connection there. And I'm sitting here, still looking at my phone. I lived by it for so long."

Out of habit, after decades of working in television, DuHain felt the need during this *Off Camera* interview to check for breaking news alerts, messages, and phone calls.

Forty-six years at one station leaves a legacy of determination, fortitude, willingness to learn, and a tireless passion for TV. While he's leaving news behind,



Recognizing excellence

State Sen. **Ted Haines** presents **Tom DuHain** with a Senate proclamation as KCRA news director, **Lori Waldon**, looks on

recent years, Sunday mornings have been spent assisting at the altar during services at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Orangevale, a suburb of Sacramento. Sermons are given in both Arabic and Chaldean (modern Aramaic) by a visiting priest. "I give my own, independently researched homily in English," DuHain said. "Most of our parishioners speak two or three languages. Most need a service in English, especially the youth."

"When I explain what our parish is, I get a puzzled look," DuHain said. "My mom used to ask me why I don't just go to a regular church? I would tell her it's like any other church, only different people." The majority of people who attend the Chaldean Church are Iraqis.

DuHain's commitment to his faith is more than interesting. It's a compulsively fascinating mystery. Chaldean Americans are descendents from Iraq, many whom have escaped religious persecution. While Chaldean Americans represent the majority of Iraqi immigrants living in the United States, they used to account for about 5 percent of the population of Iraq. Since the rise of Isis, tens of thousands have fled. The vast majority of Iraqis are Muslim.

DuHain is far from retiring. In fact, he's effusively excited about the next phase of his life. It's a little-known but very important piece of information about DuHain. He's a permanent Deacon in the Chaldean Catholic Church that falls under rule of the Vatican.

Religion for years has been an integral component of DuHain's life. In the field covering news, DuHain was aggressive about finding the story, developing contacts and sources, and always tackling assignments with fervor.

For sure, with the little twinkle in his eye, there's no question he possesses that unusual newsroom sense of humor. While he comfortably rolled with the antics of a newsroom, DuHain's Sundays have been, for years, committed to his faith -- an ancient religion that is far from mainstream.

In 1986, he was ordained a permanent Deacon in the Church of the East and, later, in 2008, transferred to the Chaldean Catholic Church Parish. In

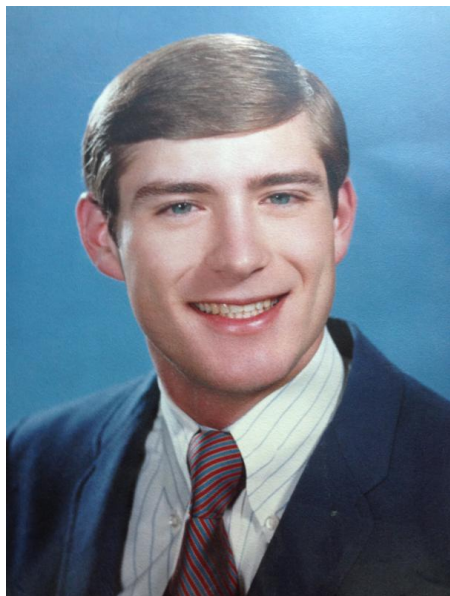


DuHain's 93-year-old mother, **Ann DuHain**, is Protestant. However, his father was Catholic and DuHain had a Catholic upbringing. Recently, attending DuHain's KCRA going-away party, she beamed with pride as she watched her son receive accolades from KCRA News Director **Lori Waldon** and a Senate Resolution from Sacramento State Sen. **Ted Gaines**. Mrs. DuHain is struggling with a myriad of health problems, including cancer, but was determined to remain healthy enough to attend the landmark occasion honoring her son. Determination must run in the family. Still, like most moms, she's left wondering about some of her son's choices, especially the one about his faith.

Yet that Catholic upbringing she gave him laid a solid foundation for what was to come next. That's DuHain's growing role in the Chaldean community. "I love the connection to ancient Christianity because it's so authentic," DuHain said. Learning about the Chaldean Catholic Church, for DuHain, was a spiritual embracement of historical proportion.

The Chaldean people are descendants of the ancient Assyrian and Babylonian civilizations. They date back to before Christ and have a 5,500-year history going back to Mesopotamia which is present day Iraq. It may sound foreign but most people relate to this: Ancient Babylonians invented the wheel; discovered how to make glass; and invented the yearly calendar with twelve months.

DuHain's ongoing quest for knowledge started early. At 16, while in high school, DuHain got into radio. At 18, he moved over to television, assisting at the KCRA weather desk. He eventually began forecasting the weather on-air. He did that for years while also co-hosting KCRA's news magazine program, *The 7:30 Show*. Then, he launched into news. "It's been stimulating, for sure," DuHain said.



KCRA's DuHain, in 1969

He and wife, **Susan**, have four daughters: **Jennifer**, 44; **Carly**, 32; **Kelley**, 31; and **Kristin**, 29. The couple also has five grandchildren.

DuHain's wife recently retired from UC Davis.

"We have a huge list of things to do," DuHain said. "Not all exciting, things like cleaning out the garage." However, there will be traveling, more time with family, and, of course, more duties at the church.

After 46 years at KCRA, DuHain has become a familiar face in the Sacramento market. In news, he anchored, reported and worked on investigative documentaries including the 1981 one-hour special, *Trouble at Twin Towers*, a program unveiling serious problems about Sacramento's old Rancho Seco nuclear generating station. DuHain covered breaking news during the day, at night, and on Saturdays. Negotiating with management, he cut a deal to avoid working Sundays. "I hated early starts at 2:30 and 3:30 a.m.," DuHain said. "In exchange, I offered to work any shift day or night, but never on Sunday. I was Mr. Flex."

When it comes to news, little has gotten in his way. At 64, DuHain has marched to the beat of his own drum, outlasting news directors, station

owners, and the always-changing face of news. From the days of film to ENG and SNG to digital. DuHain has learned new formats, remained current and enjoyed the journey.

Time never stood still while DuHain worked news. He served two terms as an elected trustee with the Los Rios Community College District. And, yes, believe it or not, serving as president of the district is how he was indirectly introduced to the Chaldean Church.

"A fellow trustee appointed a student who was also a priest to be our district chaplain," DuHain said. DuHain then attended a service delivered by the priest and he said that it was a charismatic Mass. For DuHain, the charismatic movement was starting. "The services were alive with the Holy Spirit," DuHain said. That was in the 1970s.

Decades in news, decades with his church, and decades being married, there's no question DuHain has staying power. Something else that may have stirred his faith is a successful battle with cancer. DuHain is a survivor in every sense of the word. In 1999, he completed successful treatment for Hodgkins lymphoma.

"I think I have a whole new empathy for people who suffer physically, emotionally, and spiritually," he said. "Surviving a life threatening disease adds perspective."

DuHain took five-months off work during his cancer treatment, then returned like a trooper.

"I was always so busy looking ahead," DuHain said. "I never got a chance to look in the rear-view mirror. This is my time to do that. It's just going to take some getting used to."

Today, he's braced, ready, and thrilled about what's ahead. In addition to taking better care of himself physically, traveling, spending quality time with family, he's embarking upon an interesting journey in his church. "I will start doing home visitations and house blessings," DuHain said. "We currently don't have a parish priest in residence so I will do this."

While bidding farewell to one career, DuHain is welcoming another one with his church. "I love the service," DuHain said. With a smile, he continued, "In Protestant terms, it's sometimes referred to as 'smells and bells'. Seriously, though, incense and bell ringing are of great significance. Bells alert you to the immediate presence of God."

KCRA aired a tribute to DuHain on his last day there -- Jan. 16. The tribute included testimonials from **Stan Atkinson**, retired KCRA and KOVR anchor; Dann Shively, retired KCRA helicopter pilot; and Dave Walker and Lois Hart, the retired married anchor team best-known in Sacramento for their work at KCRA and nationally for their tenure at CNN.

However, a congratulatory message that truly had DuHain taking pause was one from Bishop **Mar Bawai Soro**, of Saint Peter The Apostle of San Diego Chaldean Catholic Church. Bishop Soro was appointed by the Vatican's Pope Francis to his position and ordained DuHain as a deacon.

In the Chaldean faith, a deacon is also referred to as Shamasha. A portion of Bishop Soro's congratulatory note to DuHain is as follows:

"Dear Shamasha Thomas, I am overjoyed with praise to God and thanks to your efforts for your faithfulness and service, not only for the Church for the past 30 years but also for being a devoted Husband, Father and a Friend. Also I take this opportunity at this very moment to congratulate you for your amazing career as a prominent Television reporter/anchorman for 46 years. I am proud to declare to everyone that you have been my parishioner, my deacon, and most of all my beloved friend."

The bishop went on to send his regards to DuHain's wife and girls, all of whom participated in the Chaldean faith. He has invited DuHain to San Diego to instruct seminarians about public speaking and effective preaching.

DuHain's future is taking shape. One of his kids has boomeranged back home to live. "We have a full house," DuHain said. "My daughters are coming to appreciate our advice and help. We want to be as active in their lives as they need or will accept." Add to ongoing parenting, DuHain is putting the gym on his agenda as well as spending more quality time with his wife.

All of his activities these days will be done these day with a spiritual eye looking east. "Our churches all face east where Jesus came from and where he'll return," DuHain said. "It's mystical because we believe in things that you cannot hold and physically cannot prove. It's trust in the power of faith."

Joyce Mitchell is a Governor representing Sacramento on the Board of Governors of the San Francisco/Northern California Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. She also owns and operates her production company, 4 U Productions.



*DuHain, at his retirement party with his 93-year-old mother, **Ann***

After 32 Years, Vanderzwaan to Retire as KSBW's Chief Meteorologist Will Say Goodbye this Summer; Solomon to Replace

Jim Vanderzwaan, who has been forecasting the weather at KSBW, the NBC affiliate in Salinas-Monterey, is retiring after 32 years at the station.

Vanderzwaan, the station's lead forecaster, will leave this summer. He announced his retirement on the air Feb. 1 following NBC's broadcast of the Super Bowl.

KSBW's morning meteorologist, **Lee Solomon**, will succeed Vanderzwaan. Solomon will become chief meteorologist when he takes over.