

## **PHILIP GIBBONS: TENNESSEE RADIO HALL OF FAME**

By Lindsay McReynolds | Herald-Citizen

A man whose career in radio has spanned four decades has been named to the Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame.

**Country Giant radio show host Philip Gibbons** was surprised by coworkers, family, friends and public officials Tuesday night as he was introducing a band playing on the Tennessee Legend Distillery Stage at Zimmer Broadcasting Studios.



"Philip knows everybody in town. As a matter of fact, I think we have a message from somebody," Jonathan Monk, who nominated Gibbons, said before playing a recorded message:

(Pictured: Philip Gibbons is surprised by coworkers, friends, family and

public officials Tuesday with the news that he is one of the newest members of the Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame. From left are Jonathan Monk, Cookeville Mayor Ricky Shelton, Gibbons and Putnam County Executive Randy Porter).

"Hey, this is Keith Bilbrey down in Nashville. I am so sorry I could not make it, but I have gotten some news that just knocks me off my feet, man. Philip Gibbons is the newest member of the Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame!"

That statement prompted an eruption of cheers and applause especially among those who were waiting to surprise Gibbons, an Algood native who began his career in radio as a part-time janitor and disc jockey at WPTN in Cookeville in 1974.

"What an honor, It'll be 45 years starting in 2019. I am just thrilled, I don't know what to say. There won't be another 45 years," he joked. "I've worked with some amazing people through the years. I've had an amazing career. I'm still loving it and hopefully going strong. Thank you so much."

**Putnam County Executive Randy Porter and Cookeville Mayor Ricky Shelton declared Wednesday, Nov. 21, as Philip Gibbons day in honor of his achievement.**

Porter said, "You have an iconic voice that is recognizable almost anywhere you go, but the main thing is you have a recognizable personality in this community that everyone loves, and we're so grateful for you for being here and everything you do for the community."

Ever humble, Gibbons responded, "Thank you. This is a total surprise, total shock. The night is not supposed to be about me. But thank you so much. I'm honored. Thank you is all I know to say at this point."

Gibbons is a regular stage host at the CMA Music Fest in Nashville and has been a guest announcer at the Grand Ole Opry. He's served as honorary chairman of Alzheimer's Tennessee annual walk to benefit Alzheimer's patients and has helped raise over \$1 million for St. Jude Children's Hospital. He's also involved in the Lions Club and Susan G. Komen race.

Gibbons has been an announcer of Tennessee Tech football and basketball games since 1982.

The Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame was created in 2012 and has more than 90 members with radio careers across Tennessee.

**Cookeville residents who've been inducted into the Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame include WHUB founder Luke Medley, country radio and television personality Keith Bilbrey, former WHUB station manager Stacey Mott and former WHUB play-by-play announcer Jeff Jacoby.**

**WHUB was inducted as a legendary station by the Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame in 2017, noted for beginning in 1940 in one of the smallest towns at the time to have a radio station.**

A ceremony for all 2019 inductees into the Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame will be held Aug. 3, 2019, in Murfreesboro.

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\*Read more about WHUB and people of Putnam Co., TN & surrounding areas at:  
<http://www.ajlambert.com>