Biography of BRIAN LAMB
C-SPAN Chairman & CEO

Brian Lamb is the CEO of C-SPAN, the nation’s eighth largest cable network. He’s been at the helm of the public affairs channel since the cable industry launched it 25 years ago on March 19, 1979.

He is also a regular on-air presence at C-SPAN. Since 1989, he’s moderated Booknotes, a Sunday-night author interview program, interviewing 800 non-fiction authors. Once a week, he also hosts Washington Journal, C-SPAN’s morning political call-in program.

Brian is a Hoosier, born and raised in Lafayette, Indiana. Interested in broadcasting as a child, he built a crystal radio set to pick up local signals. During high school and college, he sought out jobs at Lafayette radio and television stations, spinning records, selling ads, and eventually hosting his own television program called Dance Date. Mobile Unit One, a specially equipped VW bus, took him on-location to high school dances and other Lafayette hot spots.

He stayed in Lafayette to attend college, graduating from Purdue with a degree in speech, then joined the Navy. His tour included the USS Thuban, White House duty during the Johnson Administration, and a stint in the Pentagon public affairs office during the Vietnam War.

In 1967, his navy service complete, Brian returned home to Lafayette. However, it wasn’t long before he returned to the nation’s capital where he found work as a freelance reporter for UPI radio. Later, he served as a press secretary on Capitol Hill, and worked for the White House Office of Telecommunications Policy at a time when a national strategy was being developed for communications satellites.

In 1974, Brian returned to journalism, publishing a biweekly newsletter called The Media Report. He also covered telecommunications issues as Washington bureau chief for Cablevision Magazine.

It was from this vantage point that C-SPAN began to take shape. Congress was about to televise its proceedings; the cable industry was looking for programming to deliver to its customers by satellite. Brian brought these two ideas together with C-SPAN, which launched with the first televised House of Representatives debate on March 19, 1979.

Today, C-SPAN employs 275 people and delivers public affairs programming on three television channels to most of the nation’s cable and satellite customers; to internet users via C-SPAN.org; and to radio listeners through C-SPAN radio—an FM station in Washington that’s also heard on the XM and Sirius satellite services.

Brian lives in Arlington, Virginia and when he’s not reading newspapers or non-fiction books is often in hot pursuit of the latest country music release or frozen yogurt.

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