To: Women of Achievement Judges

From: Dave Busiek

Re: Mollie Cooney

Date: April 24, 2017

I’m writing in support of Mollie Cooney as a *Business Record* Woman of Achievement for 2017.

Mollie recently retired after 40 years at KCCI. She was the station’s first female reporter, starting back in 1976. During her tenure, Mollie has done it all, from reporting to anchoring to hundreds of community events where she has been the MC.

One of the highlights of Mollie’s career was getting the first and exclusive interview with Bobby and Kenny McCaughey, following the birth of their septuplets. Mollie had found out about the situation well before the birth, and after talking to the McCaughey’s, who begged her not to run the story, Mollie agreed to keep it private for a time. As thanks for doing so, once the story broke and the babies were born, the McCaughey’s rewarded Mollie with their first interview ever. Mollie returned to the McCaughey’s home on an annual basis to update our viewers as the septuplets took their first steps, began school, got driver’s licenses, and graduated from high school. The scenario encapsulates Mollie’s ethics, judgment and how she is a person who keeps her word.

As anchor of KCCI’s noon newscast for 30 years, Mollie interviewed thousands of members of the community about upcoming events. It’s one of the few venues available to people to talk about charity events, plays, music concerts or events of all kinds. Mollie treated each and every one as special, and deserving of attention. Maestro Joseph Giunta will tell you, after being interviewed by Mollie many times over the years, that she was always prepared, treated him well, and when he returned to the office, the phone was always ringing with ticket orders due to his appearance on Mollie’s noon newscast.

Mollie also conceived of and reported our “In the Artist’s Studio” series of reports that aired on Sunday mornings. For five years, Mollie met with local artists of all kinds – showing all of central Iowa the quality of their work and interviewing them about their inspirations. Here are several examples:

<http://www.kcci.com/article/man-sues-says-bose-headphones-spied-on-him/9550200>

<http://www.kcci.com/article/in-the-artists-studio-pat-millin/6395289>

Along with her husband, Kevin, Mollie have been honored as members of the Silver Circle Society by the Upper Midwest Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

Mollie has set an example for others to follow. As a pioneer in the field of television news, she broke barriers, making it easier for other women to follow. As her long-time supervisor, I can tell you Mollie was a dependable, creative and energetic employee. Because of her many contacts in the community, she always had good story ideas, and knew who to talk to. She showed younger women what it takes to succeed in this highly competitive field.

And she did it all while raising three children in the public eye, and balancing work and home life with her equally-busy husband, Kevin.

Over the years, I’m occasionally asked by viewers “What are Kevin and Mollie really like? They seem so nice!” In fact, they are. My answer is usually something like “What you see on air is what you get in real life.” Mollie is a Des Moines native, Iowa State graduate, and worked nearly her entire career at the top of her profession in Des Moines. (She spent two years working in San Jose, CA, starting in 1979.)

I hope you will give strong consideration to Mollie as a *Business Record* Woman of Achievement. She is a deserving honoree – one you can be proud of.

Thank you for considering her. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Dave Busiek

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