



Feb. 1, 2021

## HOUSTON'S LONGTIME BROADCAST ANCHOR TOM KOCH LEAVES LASTING LEGACY AT ABC13/KTRK-TV HOUSTON



Tom Koch, who joined ABC13/KTRK-TV Houston in 1982 as a reporter before becoming the co-anchor of Houston's No. 1 morning newscast, will celebrate his last day on air **Friday, May 28, 2021**, announced Wendy Granato, president and general manager, KTRK. As co-anchor of the morning newscast, Houstonians have started their day with Koch for 33 years. He also co-anchored ABC13's top-rated 4:00 p.m. news for eight years.

"Tom embodies everything you'd want in a journalist and local news anchor," said Granato. "He's compassionate and curious with an amazing ability to elevate everyone

around him. I've had the privilege of working side by side with Tom on many projects throughout the years and he is truly one of the ABC13 greats!"

From the beginning, Koch immersed himself in serving Greater Houston, covering some of the most compelling stories that shaped the city. He co-anchored many of the station's live special events and parades including the July 4<sup>th</sup> Freedom Over Texas, Chevron Houston Marathon, Houston Symphony Concerts, Mayor's Holiday Lighting, the Dedication of the Bush Library, the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo Parade and many more.

"For nearly 40 years, I've been honored and humbled that so many people welcomed me into their homes every day," said Koch. "It's been a dream come true for a small-town Wisconsin kid to be part of this incredible station and truly great city of Houston. But I've decided it's time to step aside, turn off that early morning alarm and wake up to a new adventure."

A respected and award-winning journalist, Koch has extensive experience telling thousands of stories - from trailing hurricanes across the Gulf Coast to covering Houston City Hall to NASA to the State Legislature and political conventions. His international reports include the election of new popes at the Vatican, the '90s oil boom in the former Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan, earthquakes in Central America, and American astronauts launching into space from Kazakhstan.

"Tom's incredible broadcasting career spanning nearly 40 years is beyond measure," said Rehan Aslam, vice president of News, KTRK. "He has led our coverage through some of Houston's best times and hardest times. He did it all with leadership, professionalism and an authentic devotion to this city. He has traveled across the country and around the world to bring us memorable stories from a Houstonian's perspective. A great colleague, friend and committed member of our communities, Tom is ABC13 and he will be missed."

The week of May 24, ABC13 plans to host an on-air celebration featuring Koch and his many achievements, with a final send-off on Friday, May 28, 2021.

Koch adds: “A giant thank you to our viewers for supporting me, staying with me, being part of this incredible journey and making this dream come true. I hope in some small way I’ve touched your life by keeping you informed, prepared for the day ahead and sending you off with a smile. To my colleagues and management at ABC13, thank you for believing in me, always having my back and making me shine. To my wife and two daughters, words can’t describe your love, support and inspiration or your forgiveness for sometimes long hours away from home and grouchiness because of 2:30 a.m. wake-up calls. I love the phrase ‘make your own adventure.’ I have done just that with all of Houston behind me. Wish me well on my new journey.”

**Editor’s Note:**

Photos courtesy of ABC13/KTRK-TV Houston\*

\*Top Row 3<sup>rd</sup> Photo: Tom Koch and Samica Knight co-anchor desk/Photo credit: Al Torres Photography

**About ABC13/KTRK-TV Houston**

For over 50 years, ABC13 has been Houston’s news leader from sign-on to sign-off. Broadcasting 49 hours of locally produced newscasts each week, ABC13 is the top-rated and most-watched news station among the Houston-area viewers. ABC13 also leads the market in its digital media efforts, with top rankings for its website, abc13.com, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. ABC13 delivers live and streaming content on Roku, Fire TV, Amazon and AppleTV in the ABC13 Houston App. ABC13 is deeply invested in the Houston community, spotlighting Houston’s diversity with community affairs programs covering issues that affect different segments of the population - from local town halls to ABC13+. The station also hosts several community projects throughout the year including Share Your Holidays, an annual food drive benefiting the Houston Food Bank; and our E-cycle Drive, a collection/recycling effort for outdated electronic equipment in conjunction with Earth Day. ABC13 is also known for broadcasting the city’s major events including the annual July 4<sup>th</sup> Freedom Over Texas celebration, The Chevron Marathon, Houston Pride and The Houston Rodeo Parade.

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/abc13houston>

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/abc13houston/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/abc13Houston/>

**Media Contact:**

Elita Fielder Adjei

(424) 247-3517 mobile

[elita.adjei@disney.com](mailto:elita.adjei@disney.com)

-- KTRK --