

How long have you lived in Katy?
We moved to Katy in September 1998 from Columbus, Ohio.

What brought you to the area?
When I was offered a job at Fox 26, our home in Ohio sold pretty quickly, so a "let's go look around Houston" trip quickly turned into a "we've got to find someplace to live right now" trip. A little research suggested Katy was a growing area with great schools, so we asked our real estate agent to show us places out here. We never really looked anyplace else.

What do you like most about Katy?

There's a great quality of life in Katy. While it has grown tremendously in the dozen years that we've been here, it still has a personal feel to it. Growing up

in suburban Detroit, I always enjoyed having easy access to the amenities of a big city with the joy of living in a neighborhood. Katy has that, too. While I didn't imagine we'd stay long enough to get much use out of the schools - thinking they'd help with resale values instead - my two children are thriving in the great Katy ISD schools.

4 How do you stay involved in the community?

The station is involved in a fair amount of community outreach, but two organizations that I offer my personal time to are the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. Both are great charities that do great things for people.

How do you balance your career and family?

Finding the right balance is a challenge for any working parent. Working on *Fox 26 Morning News* actually offers a lot of flexibility that some parents don't have. The early-morning alarm clock never gets any easier, but when the workday is typically done by 12:30, I'm able to get in some exercise or errands and still be home in time to be with my kids after school and have dinner with the family. One real challenge comes from news events that don't happen on a 9 to 5, Monday through Friday schedule.

Sometimes the best-laid plans get tossed into the air with the need to scramble to make last-minute accommodations.

What do your kids think about seeing you on TV?

My kids haven't ever known any different, so it's not much of a big deal for them. They rarely watch, which is okay with me. Unfortunately, I have to do too many stories I'd prefer they not have to hear.

How long have you been in the TV news industry?

I started working in TV news 23 years ago and have been in front of the camera for a little more than 22. Houston is the fifth city I've worked in and is by far my favorite.







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#### Have you always wanted to be a news anchor?

No. When I first went to college, I planned to be an electrical engineer - a bad idea for me. After discovering the business of journalism, I spent a lot of years as a reporter. Over time, I got into consumer news, investigative reporting, and finally, anchoring the news. For me, it's the best of all those worlds.

What is your schedule like?
Well, Fox 26 Morning News is on the air from 4 to 10 a.m. Depending on what part of that newscast I'm working on, the alarm goes off as early as 1:30 a.m. to as late as 3:30 a.m. Once I get into the newsroom, I start reviewing and writing scripts, finding out what happened overnight and getting myself up-to-speed on the day's events. After the news, we work on ideas for the future and I get ready for the noon newscast. By the time 12:30 rolls around, the workday is largely done and it's time for family stuff and bed, if I'm lucky, by 8:30 p.m.

### Do you have a catchphrase you say on every show?

I was going to try, "Stay classy, Houston," but the movie TV anchor, Ron Burgundy beat me to it with a similar version. No, I don't have one. I figure since every day is different, our conversation with viewers will likely end a little differently each day, too.

Do you ever get nervous?

Not really anymore. There's an exhilaration to the deadlines and knowing that everything has to be ready to go when the newscast begins. That wasn't always the case, but I found a way to get over it I guess.

What is is like being on TV?

I often joke that one day I'm going to have to grow up and find a real job. Seriously, there are good days and bad days, just like with anyone else. But the competitiveness and creativity are great elements to a day that is always changing.

## What is your favorite part about being a news anchor?

I have always enjoyed the privilege of telling people's stories. From the anchor desk, I think that feeling is only magnified. TV news should be like sitting around the table having a conversation - personable, conversational, and authoritative. When people invite us into their home to have a chat, we have to be respectful of that good will and trust.

### What is your favorite story to have covered?

It's tough to pick just one. A recent one, though, was a trip I took to Haiti with a group of doctors from Texas Children's Hospital. I was led to believe we would be in danger at every turn, but I was relieved to find we were able to move around more freely than expected. While the post-earthquake devastation is immense and the need tremendous, I was so moved by the stories of the people we met there.

What motivates you?
I'm motivated by a lot of things. At the end of the day, though, I think it comes down to making a contribution.
That means teaching my kids to be active and positive participants in the world, giving to the community, and maybe, if I do my job right, helping people to understand what's going on in the world around them.

# Who has been influential in your life?

Certainly, my parents for their encouragement that I try things that interest me. I must say, though, that I'm influenced in some way by nearly everyone I meet. We all see things that impress us in positive and negative ways, which helps make us who we are.

What is something that would surprise people to know about you?

In another life, I would be an incredible, accomplished rock and roll star. In this life, I can barely handle Guitar Hero.

Do you have any hobbies?

I am an avid bicyclist. I took up racing last year, which has been really fun. I'm also a dedicated do-it-yourself kind of guy. I learned that from my dad, so every project includes me trying to figure out how to do it on my own.

What three adjectives best describe you?

Curious, determined, and competitive.

20 What would you say is your greatest accomplishment?

Every day that my kids wake up healthy, caring, and inquisitive about the world around them is top on my list. But professionally, when a viewer says they've been moved or helped by a story, that's an extraordinary compliment. **KM** 



