



# NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**July 20, 2009**

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## **STATEMENT BY FCC COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS ON THE PASSING OF WALTER CRONKITE**

One of my fondest memories during my time at the FCC will always be the opportunity I had to get to know the legendary Walter Cronkite. I was privileged to visit with Walter on several occasions and to imbibe some of the unmatched feel he had for journalism and its crucial role in sustaining a healthy and vibrant democratic dialogue.

On one occasion, in 2007, we shared a platform at a Columbia University forum on the future of the media. By then, Walter had been speaking out for a number of years about excessive media consolidation and the declining resources that were going into journalism—particularly investigative journalism. He ended his remarks this way: “America is the most prosperous and powerful nation in perhaps the history of the world. We can certainly afford to sustain a media system of which we can be proud.”

I will miss this good and wise man. And the country will miss his sage counsel as we finally begin to grapple with the crisis in journalism that he saw coming long ago. We will best honor Walter Cronkite’s memory by tackling this issue with the urgency it deserves.