

Dear Listeners,

This month I share two public radio news items with you that will affect us all. The first one expands WPM's reporting resources by adding a reporter in Cody to cover the northwest quadrant of Wyoming. WPM is collaborating with the Buffalo Bill Center of the West to hire a reporter who will tell Wyoming's stories. Collaborations of this kind are becoming more common in public broadcasting at times when reporting needs are great and funding sources are scarce. With its vast resources, the Center of the West will provide a rich throng of material for both radio and digital reporting. You can read more about this collaboration [here](#).

The second item will touch everyone who listens to *All Things Considered*. Robert Siegel, long time voice of ATC will be retiring at the end of this year. Many of you will remember the reports they cite as Robert's hallmark broadcasts, and his quiet, dignified reporting style has been an inspiration to generations of reporters. NPR's News and Operations team compiled a short tribute to him and to his contributions to NPR audiences, and I share their thoughts with you.

Dear colleagues,

Robert Siegel's voice and signature reporting have been an essential part of NPR since he first arrived in Washington in 1976. He has been with NPR for more than 40 years, a constant presence in our newsroom and a familiar voice to so many listeners. After one of the most storied careers in NPR's history, Robert has decided to step down as the host of *All Things Considered* in January 2018.

"This is a decision long in the making and not an easy one. I've had the greatest job I can think of, working with the finest colleagues anyone could ask for, for as long a stretch as I could imagine. But, looking ahead to my seventies (which start all too soon) I feel that it is time for me to begin a new phase of life. Over the next few months, I hope to figure out what that will be."

As anyone who has worked with Robert can attest, he is an extraordinary reporter and an even better broadcaster. After 30 years in the role, he comes to work every day with ceaseless curiosity, enthusiasm, and a profound passion for the work and the medium. He is the consummate student, a person whose quest for the answers has benefitted millions upon millions of listeners over the years. He is for all of us, a model of how to be fully engaged in the world, our work, and with his colleagues.

Robert has spent his life in radio, getting his start as a freshman in college. Over his four decades with NPR he has seen the news, and the newsroom, from many different angles. He joined NPR as a newscaster, moved into an editor role, opened NPR's London bureau, and as chief of NPR News ran the newsroom. And he accomplished all this before he took over at *All Things Considered* in 1987. As an ATC host, Robert reported from every corner of the country and around the world. His reporting from Paris after the attacks in 2015 and his reflections about returning to a city he knows so well made a beautiful and heartfelt [Reporter's Postcard on how the city was coping](#).

Over his career, Robert has had an unerring knack for being where news happens. In 2008, he was part of the *ATC* team in Chengdu, China, when a massive earthquake hit. On the day that the Monica Lewinsky scandal broke, it was Robert and Mara Liasson who just so happened to be interviewing President Clinton. And on September 11, 2001, he was in New York, where he guided our audience through some of the most difficult news this country has faced. In one essay he reflected on the paper memories that fell from the sky that day.

Of course, there have been many lighter moments as well, including rare interviews that have broken through Robert's professional calm to unleash one of the world's best laughs. His sense of humor is unmatched, as is his willingness to make light of himself. The homages to Robert even include cameos on the *Simpsons*.

Robert is not someone who seeks the spotlight. But we can't let him shift his role without at least a little fanfare inside NPR, at your stations, and with listeners. We'll be planning ways to celebrate and thank Robert for all his contributions at *ATC* in the coming months.

He's giving us plenty of notice, and we're grateful for that. Finding his successor will not be easy. We will conduct a national search – looking inside NPR and across the media landscape – for the next voice of *All Things Considered*.

Best,
Mike, Chris and Carline
Mike Oreskes, SVP of News and Editorial Director
Chris Turpin, VP of News Programming and Operations
Carline Watson, Executive Producer, All Things Considered

Sincerely,
Christina Kuzmych
General Manager
Wyoming Public Media



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