



I am a proud 1979 graduate of Northside High School. It is here that Drama teacher Ray Horne saw something in me that allowed me to blossom and become the broadcast and communications professional I am today. In my 30+ years of work in radio and television I have interviewed celebrities from the world of sports, news and entertainment including Oprah Winfrey, Michael Jordan and Bette Midler. I have my own business, Diane's Talking, because, let's face it, I'm always talking! I am a story teller, content creator, field producer, media coach, public speaking trainer, voiceover artist and more. I use what I've learned as a television reporter and anchor in all of my endeavors. As a voiceover artist I help clients, many non-profits, convey a message. As a media coach and public speaking trainer,

I provide people tools and techniques to become calm, confident and comfortable on camera or in front of big crowds. As a field producer, I do interviews and gather content for my clients including Entertainment Tonight, Matter of Fact with Soledad O'Brien and a host of local, syndicated and network TV stations. I work part-time as a news update anchor for Voice of America Radio which broadcasts to listeners around the globe. At any one time, I could have up to one million people listening to me. My broadcasting journey started at Northside High School when Mr Horne tapped me, and my dear friend Rick D'Onofrio, to host Eagle Echos, a 15 minute weekly radio program on WQCK-AM about any and every thing happening at Northside. That's when station management heard my voice and offered me a job as a country music disc jockey. From there I went to Valdosta State College and worked at WVLD-AM while going to school. When I transferred to GA State University in Atlanta, I worked at WSB-FM on weekends and interned at WSB-TV during the week. I swapped and worked in radio full time and TV part time after graduation. My first on-air television job was in Des Moines, IA where I was a general assignment reporter. That's also where I started using my professional name, Diane Roberts (a variation of my Dad's first name since I didn't use his last.) I did some fill-in anchoring which helped me land my next job as a weekend anchor at WIS in Columbia, SC. From there I worked in the Tampa Bay area of Florida, becoming the first Black main anchor at a TV station, the true independent WTOG. After two years there I moved over to the NBC affiliate, WFLA, where I was a weekend anchor until I left for our Nation's Capitol. I have worked for the Fox and CBS affiliates in Washington as well as Hearst TV where my work could be seen on Hearst affiliates around the country. I also freelanced for Montgomery Community Media where I received my first regional Emmy after many nominations. I'm so proud of that accomplishment. I've also won a prestigious Edward R Murrow Award plus several Telly and AP Awards for my work on TV. There are other jobs I'm sure I'm forgetting, but rest assured they would not have been possible without the education I received at Northside and the belief Ray Horne had in me.

What does Northside High School mean to you?

Northside High School means a great deal to me. I learned so much about myself during my three years there. Thanks to Ray Horne, I found a place where I was not just accepted, but often flourished and where my race was not an obstacle to be overcome. My Drama family provided a space where I could express my whole self.

And while I did not make the cheerleading squad, my enthusiasm for the orange and blue never wavered. I was involved in the Pep Squad and various other endeavors. I was "all in" on being a Northside Eagle. Isn't that great?