

# HOWARD WITT

## SUMMARY

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Versatile editor, manager and journalist with skills honed during 33-year career as newsroom executive, foreign correspondent and national correspondent. Dynamic Internet innovator and architect of award-winning websites. Proven recruiter of diverse, highly-talented employees. Experienced internationalist with on-the-ground knowledge of more than 70 countries in the Americas, Middle East, Europe, Africa and Asia.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### **The Miller Center/University of Virginia**

*Managing Editor, 10/2015-Present (Charlottesville, VA)*

### **Lafayette Journal & Courier**

*Executive Editor, 6/2013-9/2015 (Lafayette, IN)*

### **Stars and Stripes**

*Senior Managing Editor, 2009-2013 (Washington, DC)*

### **Chicago Tribune**

*Houston Bureau Chief, 2003-2009*

*Chief Diplomatic Correspondent, 2001-2003*

*Associate Managing Editor/Interactive News, 1997-99*

*Chief of Correspondents, 1996*

*Los Angeles Bureau Chief, 1995*

*Moscow Correspondent, 1992-94*

*Africa Correspondent, 1990-91*

*Canada Correspondent, 1987-89*

*Midwest U.S. Correspondent, 1986*

*General Assignment Reporter, 1982-85*

### **Washington City Paper**

*Editor-in-Chief, 2000-2001 (Washington, DC)*

### **MinorityInterest.com**

*Chief Operating Officer, 2000 (New York, NY)*

## SKILLS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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### **Inspiring Manager**

- Directed more than 50 journalists at the *Lafayette Journal & Courier*, *Muncie Star Press* and *Richmond Palladium-Item* providing comprehensive online, mobile and print coverage of three Indiana communities.
- Led 100-person *Stars and Stripes* editorial staff producing independent daily newspaper and Internet products for U.S. service members overseas. Reinvigorated news coverage, leading to a Polk Award and a National Headliner Award for Public Service.
- Restructured editorial departments to reduce staff and expenses while simultaneously increasing productivity and awarding incentive raises to top employees.
- Overhauled employee performance evaluation systems to emphasize fairness, consistency, clear expectations and actionable feedback.
- Supervised staff of 20 *Chicago Tribune* foreign and national correspondents, directing and editing coverage of world and national news.
- Led and developed staff of 65 employees who designed and produced *Chicago Tribune* websites.
- Mentored writers and editors at *Washington City Paper* alternative weekly while expanding staff diversity.

## Internet Innovator

- Created and taught new metrics-driven analytical approach to journalistic decision-making in Gannett newsrooms across the country.
- Charted new Internet growth and revenue strategy for *Stars and Stripes* and led redesign of [stripes.com](http://stripes.com) website, positioning it as a curated gateway for military news updated 24/7 by editors around the world.
- Forged new social media relationships that demonstrated how mainstream journalists and bloggers could enhance each other's work, leading to [viral distribution of my stories](#) to huge new audiences.
- Directed the *Chicago Tribune's* early forays onto the web, [pioneering a bold front-page web design](#) in 1998 that today is a news industry design standard.
- Led management and implementation of technology and content strategies for MinorityInterest.com, a start-up targeted at underserved American audiences.

## Groundbreaking Journalist

- Created new [national civil rights beat](#) at the *Chicago Tribune*.
- Uncovered stories that led to a \$9 million court award for the [victim of a racial beating](#), the [release from prison of a 14-year-old girl](#) and the [largest American civil rights demonstration](#) in a generation.
- Won five national journalism awards.
- Chronicled historic events including the [Oklahoma City bombing](#), the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe, the end of apartheid in South Africa, [Hurricane Katrina](#) and the election of President Barack Obama.

## EDUCATION

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### University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

*B.A., Magna Cum Laude, English Language & Literature (1982)*

## LANGUAGES

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Russian, German

## COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

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- Member, Regional Boys & Girls Club Board of Directors, Washington, DC
- Weekly volunteer, Brooklyn Navy Yard Boys & Girls Club, New York
- Weekly volunteer, Robert R. McCormick Boys & Girls Club, Chicago

## AWARDS RECEIVED

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- Winner, 2014 Society of Professional Journalists-Indiana/Story of the Year (*Journal & Courier*)
- Winner, 2014 Best of Gannett/Public Service (*Journal & Courier*)
- Winner, 2014 APME-Indiana/First Amendment-Community Affairs (*Journal & Courier*)
- Winner, 2014 Hoosier State Press Association/Best News Coverage (*Journal & Courier*)
- Winner, 2013 Society of Professional Journalists-Indiana/Non-deadline Series (*Journal & Courier*)
- Winner, 2013 Best of Gannett/Planned Content (*Journal & Courier*)
- Winner, 2010 Military Reporters & Editors Award (*Stars and Stripes*)
- Winner, 2009 Polk Award/Military Reporting (*Stars and Stripes*)
- Winner, 2009 National Headliner Award/Public Service (*Stars and Stripes*)
- Finalist, 2008 Pulitzer Prize/National Reporting
- Winner, 2008 Taylor Family Award for Fairness, Nieman Foundation at Harvard University
- Winner, 2008 American Judicature Society Toni House Journalism Award
- Winner, 2008 Chicago Bar Association Herman Kogan Media Award