

**BOB RICHARDSON – *Class of 1969***

Bob Richardson built a distinguished career in outdoor sports, business leadership, television broadcasting, and community service. Introduced to hunting and fishing by his parents at an early age, he developed a lifelong passion for the outdoors that shaped his professional journey.

After earning a teaching degree from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville in 1975, Richardson purchased Granite City Boat and Motor and operated the business for nearly a decade before advancing into executive leadership roles with major boat manufacturers. In the late 1980s, he entered offshore powerboat racing, earning Offshore Rookie of the Year honors in 1990, while also finding success as a competitive bass fisherman on the national tournament circuit.

In 1995, Richardson launched *Outdoors in the Heartland*, a nationally syndicated television series that aired for 25 years on major outdoor and sports networks. By 1997, he was producing and hosting two nationally televised outdoor programs that aired 52 weeks a year throughout the United States and Canada on networks including Outdoor Channel, Fox Sports, Sportsman Channel, and Wild TV Canada. He later created *ScentBlocker Most Wanted*, further cementing his reputation as one of the nation's longest-running outdoor television hosts and producers. Richardson was recognized as Outdoor Broadcaster of the Year and appeared in numerous national publications and commercial campaigns.

A skilled taxidermist and wood carver, Richardson also helped establish and coach the early Granite City High School Bass Fishing Team. He considers his greatest accomplishments to be his faith in the Lord and the family he cherishes, including his children and grandchildren.