

When Jim and I were cub reporters at the CBS station in Orlando 40 years ago, we only did two half hours of news a day. There was no morning show, no noon show, no 4pm, 5pm, or 10pm news.

Just a half hour at 6 and 11. And we had a room full of reporters competing for that time, and competing to be the lead story.

I had a great source in the D.A.'s office who was feeding me info on a crooked county commissioner. I was breaking stories on this guy and finally reported that a grand jury was going to hear testimony, and probably indict him. One night at 6pm I was watching our news, and there was Jim Sanders at the jail with MY county commissioner in handcuffs being booked into jail.

I went crazy and waited for him to come back to the newsroom. When he walked in the door I shouted "Sanders, what the hell?" He just gave me that innocent smile of his and said, "Well Willie, this morning you went to the bathroom. While you were gone, your phone rang and I answered it. What can I say?"

Vintage Sanders.

Little known fact: He was a Viet Nam hero. Went through Officers Candidate School, and came out a Second Lieutenant. In his first tour, he received two battle field commissions to First Lieutenant, then Captain.

One night he led 18 fully armed men looking for a fight up the Ho Chi Minh Trail. They were ambushed and one of his guys was hit. Jim went in and carried him out. Jim was shot doing that. Then a second man was hit, and Jim and went back and carried him out, too. And he was shot again. He received two Purple Hearts and the Distinguished Service Medal.

Jimmy was five foot nothing and I asked him once how he did that. He said, "It's amazing what the human body will do when it's properly motivated."

All the best.
Bill Bauman