



No. 128 Rob McCartney

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Rob McCartney has been a part of the Nebraska media for nearly 30 years. He was KETV's bureau chief in Lincoln before moving to Omaha to become anchor. During his career, he has flown with the Blue Angels, traveled to Bosnia to cover Nebraska National Guard deployed there and reported exclusively with a profile of the U.S. nuclear arsenal. Emcee Bill Randby, KETV meteorologist, set the tone for the night's speakers by forecasting "a flurry of applause, dark humor, showers of laughter and a hurricane of insults." Rob's father, Bob, narrated a slide show of Rob's boyhood highlighted by a series of embarrassing poses -- and bare skin. Sgt. Bill Dropinski of the Omaha Police Department, who collaborates with McCartney on KETV's "Crime Stoppers Most Wanted" feature, said: "I want one of his eyebrows. I could have a full head of hair!" Other roasters were Steve Stueck, Mutual of Omaha Bank and Julie Cornell of KETV. Jim Horan's caricature places McCartney at his news desk. Shown on the desk are a cityscape including the Capitol Bureau in Lincoln, where Rob began his career with KETV; the Omaha skyline and the Press Club, where McCartney is a longtime member; a water tank with a butterfly signifying his Papillion home. Also in the drawing: a B52 bomber represents Rob's growing up as an Air Force brat with his father, a retired colonel; Rob's charitable work with the Boy Scouts and Salvation Army; and his hobbies of golf, motorcycle riding and music. McCartney capped the evening with a Willie Nelson-style salute to the audience. "On the Road Again" was converted to "On the Floor Again," concluding with "Please be gentle when you walk on me on the floor again!"