

= Neal Boortz =

Neal A Boortz , Jr . (born April 6 , 1945) is an American author , attorney , and former radio host . His nationally syndicated talk show , The Neal Boortz Show , which ended in 2013 , was carried throughout the United States . It was ranked seventh in overall listeners , with more than 4 @. @ 25 million per week . The content of the show included politics , current events , social issues , and topics of interest , which Boortz discussed with callers , correspondents and guests . Boortz touched on many controversial topics and referred to himself as an " equal opportunity offender . "

Boortz 's first involvement with radio was in the 1960s , while he was a student at Texas A & M University , working as a local on @- @ air personality at WTAW @- @ AM . After moving to Georgia , he became an avid listener of Atlanta ' s first talk radio station . Boortz became a regular caller to the morning talk show . When the show 's host died , it created a job opening , which Boortz actively pursued . He was initially hired on a two @- @ week " trial run " , and later offered the permanent position . Boortz attended night law school , earning a law degree in 1977 . For some years he worked as both an attorney and as a talk show host . He eventually closed his law practice in order to concentrate on his work in radio .

Boortz has received many industry accolades . He was named as one of the " 25 Most Important Radio Talk Show Hosts in America " by Talkers magazine , and one of " Georgia 's 100 Most Influential People " by Georgia Trend . In 2009 , Boortz was inducted into the Radio Hall of Fame .

Boortz 's first book was The Commencement Speech You Need To Hear in 1997 , followed by The Terrible Truth About Liberals , in 1998 . In 2005 , he co @- @ wrote The FairTax Book with Congressman John Linder , proposing to implement a variant of a national retail sales tax in lieu of other federal taxes . Boortz 's involvement with the FairTax is covered in the documentary film An Inconvenient Tax .

= = Biography = =

= = = Early life and education = = =

Boortz was born in Bryn Mawr , Pennsylvania , his mother 's home . His father was a Marine Corps pilot , who served in World War II , the Korean War and Vietnam War . Describing himself as a " military brat " , Boortz lived in many locations throughout the country (including the small community of Thrall , Texas) . He spent his first two years of High School at Tustin Union High School in Tustin , California . The family then moved to Florida . Boortz graduated from Pensacola High School , in 1963 . He attended Texas A & M University , but did not graduate . Boortz later attended John Marshall Law School , in Atlanta , Georgia , graduating in 1977 and passing the Georgia bar .

= = = Personal life = = =

Neal Boortz makes his permanent home in Naples , Florida , spending a few months in Atlanta , Georgia . He lives with his wife , Donna . They have one daughter and a granddaughter . Boortz is a pilot and plays golf . He owns two airplanes . He is also a motorcycle enthusiast .

= = Career path = =

Boortz began his radio career in College Station , Texas in the 1960s at WTAW @- @ AM , under the name of Randy Neal , while attending Texas A & M University . In 1967 , after leaving Texas , Boortz moved to Atlanta and landed a sales job . For two years he worked at Rich 's Department Store , where he sold jewelry and carpeting . He later recollected that one of his customers was Martin Luther King , Jr . During that time , Boortz was an avid listener of WRNG @- @ AM , which called itself " Ring Radio " , Atlanta 's first talk radio station . He listened to their morning talk show host , Herb Elfman , and soon became a devotee . " Boortz bombarded Elfman with calls , reading

him little scripts he 'd scribbled . " While watching the news one evening , he heard that Elfman had committed suicide . The next morning , Boortz showed up at the front door of WRNG and announced that he was ready to take Elfman 's place . Even though the management told him that " they were going to search for a ' qualified ' host to take his place " , Boortz was offered to be a temporary two @-@ week replacement . In the interim , the evening host was moved to mornings and Boortz hosted the evening . Two weeks later , Boortz was moved to the morning show , embarking on an Atlanta talk radio career that spanned more than forty years . Boortz honed his skills at the tiny 1 @,@ 000 @-@ watt station , and even wrote a few speeches for then Georgia Governor Lester Maddox . He continued working at the station until 1974 , when WRNG " dumped him " . He worked briefly at a radio station in Schenectady , New York , but soon returned to Atlanta .

In 1974 , Boortz enrolled in then @-@ unaccredited John Marshall Law School (Atlanta) going to class in his spare time , while he and his wife Donna worked full @-@ time loading mail trucks . Boortz credits his wife with providing " the money to keep me in law school " . After graduating from law school in 1977 , Boortz practiced law in a solo law firm from 1977 through 1993 . During that period , he divided his time between his law practice and work in radio . One of Boortz 's clients was boxer Evander Holyfield . Holyfield later sued Boortz and other members of his management team in the aftermath of a failed Subaru dealership investment . Boortz told Atlanta Magazine " It had nothing to do with representing him as a boxer . It was settled and disappeared . " Some time later , in a heated on @-@ air exchange between Atlanta mayor Bill Campbell and Boortz , Campbell remarked on the Holyfield relationship : Campbell (sarcastically) : By the way , Neal , Evander Holyfield sends his regards ... We talked a little about how good he 's doing now and the fact he 's getting ready to open up his 57 @,@ 000 square @-@ foot , \$ 20 million home . How he 's fighting for \$ 35 million a fight . I was sorta thinking about when you were representing him . He was living in an apartment over on Lenox Road . He was fighting for about \$ 20 @,@ 000 a fight . It 's sort of interesting how your great legal skills have transferred into financial well @-@ being for Evander Boortz responded by calling mayor Campbell an " unethical son of a bitch " . Boortz later remarked " It 's the only time I 've ever been on the air that I lost control . " In 1993 , Boortz closed his law practice and devoted his full @-@ time to his radio career .

= = = Radio career = = =

While in law school , Boortz returned to work at WRNG . In 1983 he moved to the larger news and talk radio station WGST . He later recounted how he would often go into work at his law office at 5 : 00am , work there for several hours , then go to WGST , and finally back to the law office until 11 : 00pm . In 1992 , Boortz asked WGST for a raise ; a salary equal to his combined income as an attorney and a radio host . When WGST refused , Boortz left . He got his raise when he signed an exclusive contract with WSB to host a daily radio show . Shortly after that , he closed his law office . In 1995 , Talkers Magazine named Boortz one of the " 25 Most Important Radio Talk Show Hosts in America " . That same year , Georgia Trend magazine added Boortz to its list of the " 100 Most Powerful & Influential People in Georgia " .

In 1999 , his show became nationally syndicated through WSB 's owner Cox Radio . The show originated in Atlanta . The Neal Boortz Show featured Boortz , producers Belinda Skelton and Royal Marshall , interviewees , and callers . On the air and on his website Boortz admonished his listeners to take no heed nor place any credence in anything he said , presenting himself as merely an " entertainer . " As an entertainer , Boortz was a 2002 NAB Marconi Radio Awards finalist and Radio & Records NewsTalk Personality of the Year for 2002 . NewsMax.com Magazine 's " Top 25 Talk Radio Host " list selected Boortz as the ninth most influential host in the nation .

In 2007 , Boortz and his radio show were awarded " Best Radio On @-@ Air Personality " and " Best Radio Program , Any Type " by The Georgia Association of Broadcasters . He was also a recipient of the Georgia Radio Hall of Fame 2007 Career Achievement Award . The Neal Boortz Show originated from the nation 's ninth (9th) largest radio market and was ranked the sixth overall most listened to radio program in the country . In 2008 , Boortz was a finalist for the National

Association of Broadcasters 's " Marconi Award " as the nation 's best syndicated radio personality (the award went to Glenn Beck) .

Boortz was inducted in the National Radio Hall of Fame in 2009 .

= = = Author = = =

Boortz 's first foray into authorship was in 1997 with The Commencement Speech You Need To Hear , in which he delivers his opinions on various topics in the form of a commencement speech he would give to new college graduates , if ever invited to do so . His second book , entitled The Terrible Truth About Liberals , was published in 1998 , and contains reprinted material from his first book , along with a significant amount of new material .

His third book (co @-@ authored by Georgia Congressman John Linder) entitled The FairTax Book , explains the proposal to implement a national retail sales tax in lieu of the federal income taxes , payroll taxes , estate tax , etc . The hardcover version held the # 1 non @-@ fiction spot on the New York Times bestseller list for the last two weeks of August 2005 and remained in the top ten for seven weeks . The paperback released in May 2006 contains additional information , an afterword and several revisions of misstatements made in the hardcover edition . It also spent several weeks on the New York Times bestseller list . Boortz claims to have donated 100 % of his royalties from the FairTax book to charity and has commented on his radio show that he has not made one cent from the book . As of July 2006 , Boortz claims his charitable donations from book proceeds exceed one hundred thousand US dollars . The book is one of his most frequent topics of discussion .

His fourth book entitled Somebody 's Gotta Say It was released on February 20 , 2007 , and debuted at # 2 spot on the New York Times bestseller list , second only to Barack Obama 's Audacity of Hope . He occasionally writes columns on the Internet news / commentary site Townhall.com and other online magazines .

His latest book is titled FairTax : The Truth . This book attempts to answer the critics of the Fair Tax proposal and claims to correct some of its myths and misrepresentations . It achieved # 4 on the New York Times Best Seller list for the week of March 2 , 2008 for paperback nonfiction .

= = Political beliefs = =

Boortz is a self @-@ described libertarian . He advocates a complete overhaul of the U.S. tax system and the release of all non @-@ violent drug offenders who are currently in prison . He has supported Republican candidates and Republican tax policy , though he occasionally clashes with Republicans on social issues . Others describe his political views as being more in line with " republitarian " philosophy that embraces incrementalism domestically , and a generally interventionist foreign policy based on self @-@ interest , national defense and the expansion of freedom . Boortz disagrees with the Libertarian Party platform on several key issues including his firm support of the war in Iraq , incremental tax reform , and his opposition to the unrestricted immigration policy advocated by the Libertarian Party .

Boortz criticizes the major parties saying " I believe that the principal difference between the Democrats and the Republicans is that the Democrats just want to grow our Imperial Federal Government a bit faster than the Republicans do . " He sides with liberals on some social issues such as abortion , same @-@ sex marriage , and civil liberties . He agrees with fiscal conservatives in advocating less government spending and decreasing corporate regulation . He is an advocate for freedom of speech . In line with the traditional views of the Libertarian Party , Boortz supports eliminating the War on Drugs , and emphasizing personal responsibility . He has repeatedly stated his belief that global climate change is not man @-@ made . His stances on many of these issues make him popular among conservative Republicans , who , due to their larger numbers in comparison to Libertarians , make up the majority of his listeners and callers .

Boortz 's post @-@ 9 / 11 platforms include support for the US @-@ led War on Terror , a more aggressive foreign policy , and the USA Patriot Act . He is also strongly in favor of a crackdown on

illegal immigration , including harsh penalties for businesses who employ persons here illegally . These views occasionally put him in conflict with the Libertarian Party . Justin Raimondo of Antiwar.com has called Boortz a " statist , not a libertarian " and a " liberventionist " and has urged the Libertarian Party to " Boot Boortz " .

Prior to the 2006 midterm elections , Boortz opined that perhaps it would be a good thing to have the Republicans lose power in Congress , forcing them to wake up and stop taking their base for granted . Boortz told one disgruntled caller :

I am happy about it [the defeat] . It 's the only way to get these Republicans to wake themselves up and say , ' You have abandoned what you were put in office for . '

Boortz creates controversy among conservatives for his support of abortion rights (on which Boortz does not allow calls) , for his refusal to condemn homosexuality or gay marriage , and for his negative comments regarding Baptists and the biblical story of creation . Although he calls himself a Christian , he keeps his religious views private . He has also caused a stir among some Southerners , by coining the term " Flaggots " during his frequent jabs at them and at Confederate issues (such as governmental support of the Confederate flag) .

= = The Neal Boortz Show = =

The Neal Boortz Show was a nationally syndicated talk show , which ended in January 2013 . It aired live from 8 : 30am to noon , weekdays . Boortz routinely criticized politicians , Muslim extremism , the homeless , public schools (which he called ' government schools ') , liberals , opponents of the Iraq war , teachers , smokers , the obese , Chevrolet Camaro drivers , cats , and welfare recipients . On air , Boortz referred to himself as an " equal opportunity offender " .

Boortz marketed his talk radio show as " insensitivity training " , creating controversy which increased ratings . His stated " beliefs " included a claim that ADD and ADHD are " medical frauds " and a scam that teachers , parents , and drug companies use . His attempts at controversy included referring to homeless people as " urban outdoorsmen " on air , and called public education " taxpayer @-@ funded child abuse " . Specific targets of criticism included Christian conservatives , Hillary Clinton , Ted Kennedy , Max Cleland , and Cynthia McKinney . He also expressed a negative opinion about the lack of Muslim outrage for the actions of Muslim terrorists and the riots that erupted in response to the Jyllands @-@ Posten Muhammad cartoons controversy . Islamic extremism was a favorite topic .

Some of his remarks caused controversy . After the Virginia Tech shootings , Boortz criticized the media , saying , " When the history of this event is written , we will have 25 students standing meekly waiting for this guy to execute them . " When public outrage resulted from his comments , members of the Virginia Legislature tried to have Boortz 's show removed from local radio stations . In March 2008 , Boortz attracted controversy by playing an audiotape of a nine @-@ year @-@ old where he repeatedly ridiculed the child ' s speech , leading to an unsuccessful FCC petition to deny Boortz ' s employer the right to purchase five local radio stations .

Boortz announced his retirement from radio on June 4 , 2012 . His last live show aired on January 18 , 2013 . Boortz 's regular fill @-@ in host , Herman Cain , replaced him on January 21 , 2013 , in what accounted to a swap of seats , as Boortz now is Cain 's fill @-@ in host . Boortz stated he would host commentaries for WSB and national syndication , and also substitute for Sean Hannity , whose show airs on WSB in Atlanta , when needed in addition to being Cain 's fill @-@ in .