THE QUINN AWARD
for journalistic excellence
and distinction

Dave Lopez Likes Telling It Like It Is

BY SANDY COHEN

WEARING A SUIT and tie, CBS2 News reporter Dave Lopez chased a live turkey around its pen until he caught the unwieldy bird. It was one of the veteran newsmen’s more unusual features.

“I’m not big on animals,” he says, not mincing words.

Lopez, 58, tells it like it is. His straight-ahead style has made him a stalwart presence in Southern California television news for 34 years.

His selection as this year’s honoree of the Joseph M. Quinn Award for Journalistic Excellence and Distinction is for a career spent covering some of Los Angeles’ biggest stories, from the O.J. Simpson trial and Rodney King riots to floods, fires and Lakers championships.

Lopez has been married to his wife, Elaine, since 1970. They have two children, Tami, 31, and Matt, 29, and a granddaughter, Cassie.

In addition to his professional accolades, Lopez is a favorite of Southern California news-watchers. The Orange County Register called Lopez “the ‘Star’ TV reporter in Orange County” and readers of the media news site Ron Fineman’s On the Record voted him the best local TV field reporter.

“You name it, I’ve covered it... The only thing I haven’t done is a weather report.”

“I’ve never been anchor-happy... I know what I’m good at and I like it.”

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