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Longtime host of KVPT's *Valley Press* leaving the program

KVPT is announcing the resignation of veteran, 19-year *Valley Press* Host Jim Tucker. Mr. Tucker planned, prepared, wrote, scheduled and hosted this 30-minute, high-intensity weekly program. He lent his credibility, journalistic integrity and understanding of issues in the news helping to make *Valley Press* one of KVPT's signature programs for Valley viewers. Since 1989 over 1500 guests have appeared on the 675 programs aired. He also hosted 40 political debates and candidate forums that aired on the station.

A retrospective program celebrating Mr. Tucker's 19 years on *Valley Press* will air on KVPT Friday, September 5 at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Tucker will continue to produce and host periodic special programs and capture living histories of noted Valley citizens for the station. KVPT will keep producing a weekly, local news/public affairs program, to be announced in the near future.

"Jim has been an integral part of KVPT's connection to Valley issues and a major player in fulfilling our mission to provide localism. His faithfulness to fulfill that goal has meant a great deal to the station and to our viewers", said Paula Castadio, President & CEO of Valley Public Television.

KVPT Producer Oscar Speace, who has worked with Mr. Tucker during the entire 19-year run of the program, agrees and added, "It has been an honor to work with a true professional. He has always made his guests comfortable while asking the tough questions."

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During his years of hosting *Valley Press*, many high profile guests have appeared on the program including national, state and Valley politicians, celebrities, authors, historians, sports figures, religious leaders, community leaders, educational leaders and numerous members of Valley media. His political guests have included such notables as Vice President Dan Quayle; Senator Barbara Boxer; Congressional representatives Jane Harman, John Krebs, Tony Coelho, Rick Lehman, Gary Condit, Cal Dooley, George Radanovich, Devin Nunes and Jim Costa; California Governor Pete Wilson and Lt. Governor Cruz Bustamonte; Secretary of State Bill Jones; State Senators Ken Maddy and Chuck Poochigian; Members of the Assembly Bruce Bronzan, Sarah Reyes, Mike Villines and Current Assembly Speaker Karen Bass; and Ag Secretary Ann Veneman.

Mr. Tucker has given tirelessly to Valley Public Television and the community, also hosting many public forums representing both the station and California State University, Fresno where he taught Journalism in the Mass Communications Department for many years.

About his departure from the program, Mr. Tucker said, "I think *Valley Press* has provided something unique to the Valley. We've put a face on people in the news, and we've allowed them to provide additional information on stories that have run in the commercial media. We've had a heck of run these past 19 years. I wish I could have stayed longer, but I needed to slow my life down a little. Addy and Gigi, my two granddaughters, influenced my decision to leave the show. I want to spend more time with them."

Concerning his time with the program, Mr. Tucker reports, "I'll really miss *Valley Press* and my KVPT colleagues - especially Oscar Speace, my friend, director and co-producer who always remained steady in the control room, no matter what was happening on the set. We also have a large core-group of viewers, and I thank them for their loyal support all of these years. And, I really want to thank all the wonderful KVPT volunteers who were such a big part of the success of *Valley Press*."

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