

T E D T U R N E R

June 1, 2023

Dear Friends,

June 1st will always hold a special place in my heart. On this day, 43 years ago, CNN made its debut as the first 24-hour news channel. While so much has changed over four decades, one thing remains largely as it was on June 1, 1980 -- those **three, unmistakable red and white letters** – CNN.

In 1987, CNN (just 7 years old at the time) moved into its new headquarters – becoming the stuff of dreams ushering in a new era to downtown Atlanta. CNN Center became a bustling hub and a global tourist destination and a source of enormous pride for all those who contributed to it.

I'm thrilled so many of you are here today to be memorialized in this landmark photograph that will celebrate CNN employees, past and present, coupled with an opportunity to connect and share stories of how you shaped CNN – and how CNN shaped you.

In my launch speech at CNN's original Atlanta headquarters in 1980, I shared my vision for how CNN's national and international coverage would "bring together in brotherhood and kindness, and friendship and in peace, the people of this nation and this world." Today, CNN's two dozen branded networks and services are available to more than two billion people in more than 200 countries and territories.

CNN's revolutionary approach to news coverage has provided a huge benefit to humanity with a looking glass to the world. A 24-hour news format helped move the needle towards greater understanding of global events and an awareness of other cultures - sparking curiosity and carving a space forward to peace and democracy. Is there more work to do? Of course. CNN's story is being re-written, just like the story of the world it covers in real time.

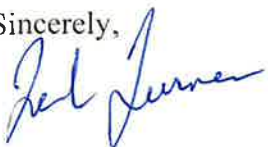
As we gather here today to celebrate our proud camaraderie as a CNN family, I resist calling it an "end of an era". Soon, these three red letters will find a new home (just a few miles away) in the *Ted Turner Plaza* at the Techwood campus. In many ways it is a homecoming of sorts – to its roots, where it all began in 1980. And let me remind you – the doubters said we couldn't pull it off. But with grit, tenacity, and perseverance, we endured.

Let's use this 'moment' to honor and celebrate our personal legacy to CNN. Our experiences and stories can be a spark to usher in innovation and integrity to the future of journalism. I believe there is no greater legacy we can leave our children and grandchildren than a peaceful and safer world. To achieve this, we must ensure a gold standard for democracy and truth.

Thank you again for your contributions that helped put us on the map.

As your *Captain Courageous*, I look to the horizon with anticipation: Set sail, CNN! May you find safe harbor in your new (and old) - home, sweet, home.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ted Turner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ted" and last name "Turner" clearly legible.