



Behind the scenes at a White House live report

photos courtesy of Peter Alexander

From 1998-2001, when viewers tuned in to the local news, they often saw Peter Alexander, a young reporter on KHQ, delivering the stories. It was his first job out of college, and Spokane etched itself on his heart. Nowadays, when he reports, it is for NBC News and it is often from the White House lawn or a far-off country, but he's never forgotten Spokane.

Peter ALEXANDER

Hometown: San Francisco Bay Area
Lived in Spokane: 1998 – 2001
Job then: Reporter on KHQ
Current city: Washington D.C.
Job now: National Correspondent, NBC News

First impression of Spokane: "I thought, 'This airport is totally manageable. There are no lines outside the baggage claim. I can handle this.' I was from the Bay Area, and moving to Spokane, I was struck by the scenery and the sense that this was such a small community."

Local favorites: "I remember working with Randy Shaw, Mark Peterson and Greg Heister. I was walking out the door for my first live shot and Randy said, "Peter, we're counting on you, don't ---- it up!"

Memorable on-air stumbles: "Covering a helicopter crash for KHQ, I accidentally said, 'deer, mook and elf,' rather than 'deer, moose and elk,' and then I added, 'when the helicoptor crashed.'"

Dream job: "I dreamed of anchoring the *Today* show, but that felt like the moon, so my immediate goal was to get home to the Bay Area to work, so my parents could watch me on the news. Now they can watch me, along with everyone else."

Spokane's impact: "I take so much pride in my experiences and the time I had in Spokane. KHQ was awesome! When my contract was up and I got a job offer in Seattle, I literally had tears in my eyes and I asked my dad, 'How can I leave Spokane? This is my home.'"

Dream Spokane weekend itinerary: "Hit the floating green at the Coeur d'Alene Resort Golf Course. Ski at Schweitzer. Take my daughter to Manito Park. Eat at Gordy's on the South Hill. I lived on that place! I was just out of college, and that was big time when we went there!"

Highlights from career: Alexander used to cover from Pullman to Colville, now it's Beijing to Baghdad and everywhere in between. He's interviewed Fidel Castro and covered the 2012 presidential campaign of Mitt Romney (wherever Romney went, he went, meaning he spent 250 of 365 nights in a hotel that year.) He was the White House correspondent from 2012 until March 2014, and he has a front row seat (literally, he's assigned to the front row) at the White House Press Briefings and Presidential Press Conferences. He covers other national stories, such as his recent exclusive sit-down interview with NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell in light of the NFL violence scandal. He recently anchored *Today* weekend edition on Saturday morning, and anchored the *NBC Nightly News* the following evening.

Favorite story he's covered: A 2010 piece about his sister, who was diagnosed with Usher Syndrome, at the age of 13, which is slowly robbing her of her ability to see and hear, and yet she lives life to the fullest. "I get to have these eye-opening experiences traveling all around the planet for work, and knowing what she is going through, I have a responsibility to appreciate how unique these experiences are."

Praise for the prep: "Spokane and KHQ embraced me big time! I'm so appreciative for my experiences at KHQ and in Spokane, because they prepared me for this job."

West Coast is the best coast? "Do I miss the west coast? Yes. Yes, I do. I wish I could be there, every single day. I've been pitching Spokane stories for 11 years!" 

Reporting from the White House

President Obama entering the White House Press Briefing Room

Interviewing Fidel Castro during Hurricane Ivan, 2003

Anchoring the *Today* show in 2014

