

**Sal Paolantonio**, a U.S. Navy veteran, has been a national correspondent at ESPN for 30 years, the longest serving reporter at the network. He has been the host of the NFL Matchup Show on ESPN for 23 years, currently the longest serving host of an NFL studio show at the Worldwide Leader in Sports. On ESPN National Radio, he is analyst in the radio booth for NFL games. He is a voting member of the Enshrinement Selection Committee at the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio, and the author of four books, including the best-selling *How Football Explains America*. He has been awarded seven Emmys for his work on SportsCenter and Sunday NFL Countdown.

In November, Paolantonio was inducted into the National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame in Chicago. He is the recipient of the 2023 Dick Vermeil Lifetime Achievement Award given by the NFL alumni for his journalism and charitable endeavors. He is the 2023 recipient of the UNICO National Lifetime Achievement Award for Journalism and Broadcasting and inducted into the Hall of Fame of the South Jersey All-Sports Museum.

The New York Daily News in 2018 awarded Paolantonio the Jack Newfield Courage in Journalism Award. He received the prestigious Associated Press International Reporting Award in 1985 for his reporting and photography of the famine in East Africa for the *Albany Times-Union*. His journalism career spans four decades. One of his books, *Rizzo, the Last Big Man in Big City America*, was adapted for the stage and had a two-year sold-out run at the Suzanne Roberts Theater in Philadelphia.

Paolantonio served as a surface warfare officer in the U.S. Navy's Sixth Fleet in the South Pacific and Indian Ocean from 1978-83 and was awarded the United Nations Meritorious Service Award for his role in the search and rescue of Vietnamese refugees in the South China Sea.

Paolantonio was born in Brooklyn. He grew up on Long Island, where he graduated from Sewanhaka High School in Floral Park, N.Y. In 1977, he graduated from Oneonta State University, where he was named one of the top 100 graduates in the 100-year history of the school. In 2013, SUNY awarded him an honorary doctorate for his work in journalism and philanthropy. He has a Master's degree in journalism from NYU.

Paolantonio is a member of the board of trustees of the Cooper University Hospital Foundation and the Jaws Youth Partnership, raising money for distressed youth in New Jersey and Philadelphia. He is mentor to retiring military officers as part of American Corporate Partnership and hosts the annual Football Breakfast for Urban Promise, a school and ministry for at-risk youth in New Jersey. He is on the board of the Otho Davis Scholarship Fund, raising money for athletic trainers and young medical professionals and a longtime supporter of the Dr. Teddy Atlas Foundation on Staten Island.

He and his wife Lynn, married for 46 years, have three children and four grandchildren.