



## NEWS RELEASE

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## **John Ellington, Ann Ellington Wagner featured in December edition of 'Murfreesboro Storytellers'**

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**MURFREESBORO, Tenn.** –The December episode of “Murfreesboro Storytellers” features the children of the late Tennessee Governor Buford Ellington. The interview featuring brother and sister, John Ellington and Ann Ellington Wagner, can be viewed on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/gYHgdRevhzA>. “Storytellers” is hosted by John Hood.

The featured guests in this month’s interview are the surviving children of the late Buford Ellington, one-time Governor of Tennessee. The Ellington’s are graduates of Middle Tennessee State Teacher’s College, later named Middle Tennessee State College and then Middle Tennessee State University.

The ‘Storytellers’ interview with John Ellington and Ann Ellington Wagner feature the following topics:

- Ann Ellington Wagner shares her experiences living in the Governor’s Residence. As the daughter of a governor, Ann Ellington wanted to attend college where she could be somewhat distant but close enough to return to help her mother. Ellington Wagner earned a degree in Fine Arts. Some of her art is displayed at the Green Hills Public Library, 3701 Benham Ave., Nashville, Tennessee, during the month of December.
- Ellington Wagner met many recording stars including Elvis who surprisingly sat down next to her at an event before grabbing her hand and suggesting “Let’s go!” (on stage). Ellington promptly responded, “I’m not going!” But Elvis asked the Governor, “Can she go?” Later she attended recording sessions with Elvis and more.
- John Ellington served in the Army following the Korean War and returned to the Executive Residence during leave. He earned a degree in Industrial Arts in 1956 from MTSU where he also learned to fly.

- John Ellington flew for Delta Airlines beginning in the 1960s as jets were being introduced into commercial aviation. He became an instructor in 1966 with the acquisition of DC-9s even though he had never flown a jet. When Ellington told his captain that he had no experience flying jets, the response he got was, "I didn't ask you if you'd ever flown a jet. As a matter of fact, I didn't ask you any questions at all. I was just telling you what the deal was." Ellington said he sort of learned how to be a Captain that day.
- While in the seventh grade Ann Ellington met President Harry Truman at the Executive Residence on a night when he played the 'Missouri Waltz' on the piano. At the time, Ann was just learning to play and when asked by the president what she thought of his performance, Ellington blurted out, "I think you need to take piano lessons like I'm taking right now." Her mother and father "melted into the carpet," according to Ellington Wagner, but she remembers President Truman getting laughter out of her honesty and naiveté.

For more information on Governor Buford Ellington, governor of Tennessee for four two-year terms from 1959-1963 and 1967-1971, visit the Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture website at <http://tennesseeencyclopedia.net/entry.php?rec=430>.

This month's 'Storytellers' was recorded on location on the front porch of the Executive Residence of the president of Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU), located at 2215 Middle Tennessee Boulevard. "Murfreesboro Storytellers" is produced by award-winning video producer Michael Nevills.

"Storytellers" can also be seen on CityTV Sunday, 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Monday, 7:30 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30 a.m. and Saturday, 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. You can watch "Storytellers" on CityTV (located on Comcast Xfinity Channel 3 and AT&T Uverse channel 99) or view the program online by visiting [www.murfreesborotn.gov/storytellers](http://www.murfreesborotn.gov/storytellers).

*For City News online, visit [www.Murfreesborotn.gov](http://www.Murfreesborotn.gov).*

**Photo attached:** 'Storytellers' host John Hood interviews Ann Ellington Wagner and John Ellington at MSTU.

*1. John Hood, Ann Ellington Wagner, John Ellington.jpeg.*