



## CHARLES HURT

Charles Hurt is opinion editor for *The Washington Times* and a Fox News contributor. For two decades, Hurt has covered politics in Washington, first as a beat reporter and later as a columnist and opinion writer. He is a frequent guest across all of Fox News and Fox Business, including Tucker Carlson Tonight, Special Report and Greg Gutfeld Show.

Hurt was the first journalist in Washington to identify the rise of Donald Trump. Whether you view Trump as a threat or a savior, he was the first professional reporter in Washington to identify the political mood of the country and the potential for Trump to capitalize on it.

“Donald Trump and his \$9 billion just made the biggest splash of the 2016 presidential race,” Hurt wrote in June 2015, even as Trump was still delivering his announcement speech in Trump Tower a full 17 months before the 2016 election. “By the time the seas stop sloshing back and forth, there may not be a drop of water left over for anybody else to float a rowboat.”

And from that day forward, Hurt accurately chronicled the media’s blind hatred and inability to cover Trump with any semblance of fairness, scrutiny, or accuracy.

“Of course, what you heard from Washington and the elite political set in both parties Tuesday was snickering and laughing and scoffing,” Hurt wrote in that first column. “All the old jokes about The Donald’s cheesy style. His crazy orange combover. His penchant for grand statements spoken bluntly with an exclamation point that is often dotted by his very own finger in the air.” “And, yes, he descended down to his kickoff at Trump Towers via a glass escalator. It was shopping mall glamorous.”

That column holds up as well today as the day he wrote it.

Hurt credits his clear-eyed assessment of Trump on a lifetime in newspapers, more than 20 years covering politicians, and growing up in a small, rural town working summers in construction around the very people who would become Trump’s biggest supporters.

Hurt got his first job in newspapers when he was 11 years old after he started a little newspaper with his older brother and younger sister called “The Gilmer News & Gossip”. As Managing Editor, he covered everything from barn burnings to dead squirrels to the carnival that came to town. It was a small, one-page paper that sold for a nickel a copy but stirred up plenty of controversy and gave Hurt a taste of the power of the press—for both good and evil.

While in college, Hurt started working for real newspapers, starting with *The Danville Register & Bee* and *The Richmond Times-Dispatch*. He spent a summer working for *The St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. After college, he got his first full-time newspaper job working for *The Detroit News*, covering crime, city schools, the mafia, courts, and local politics. During his seven years in Detroit, he became part of an award-winning, two-man investigative team that exposed rampant political corruption in a city schools building program and revealed how dozens of city residents had died as a result of the city’s chronically mismanaged fire department.

Two weeks after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Hurt moved to Washington, D.C. to become national correspondent for the *Charlotte Observer* covering America's next president, John Edwards—who at that time was only famous for **not** being picked by Al Gore for VP in 2000—but the political press **loved**.



**WORLDWIDE SPEAKERS GROUP LLC**  
YOUR GLOBAL PARTNER IN THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

. He would later become lead reporter for *The Washington Times*, covering the 2004 campaign of John Kerry and John Edwards and traveling extensively around the country with the campaigns.

When not on the campaign trail, Hurt covered Congress for *The Observer*, *Washington Examiner*, and *The Washington Times*, focusing on the debates leading up to the Iraq War and the epic fights over President Bush's judicial nominations. Famed Nixon speechwriter and legendary *New York Times* columnist William Safire credited Hurt with coining the phrase "nuclear option" to describe the senate plan to blow up the filibuster to get judicial nominees confirmed to the federal bench.

In 2007, Hurt was hired as DC Bureau Chief of *The New York Post*, where he served as White House correspondent and covered the national political ambitions of New York City's own Hillary Clinton and Rudy Giuliani and a young political upstart named Barack Obama, whom he accompanied on his world tour through the Middle East, Israel and Germany. Later, a column he wrote about then-Senator Obama's position on the Iraq war got him thrown off the 2008 Obama campaign plane.

After five years working for the greatest tabloid on earth, Hurt left *The New York Post* to become editor for the highly influential *DRUDGE REPORT*, working alongside the mysterious and mercurial news hound Matt Drudge.

Today, Hurt edits the Commentary Section of *The Washington Times*, the lone conservative voice in the nation's capital going back 35 years. Even in today's crowded media environment, *The Washington Times* remains the only full-service, daily printed newspaper committed to hard, balanced news in its news section and a conservative voice on its opinion pages. He also writes the Nuclear Option column for *The Times*, focusing on the current state of national politics, fiascos of media bias, and the various criminal activities of politicians and bureaucrats.

Hurt lives in Chatham, Virginia, the small tobacco town where he grew up and his entire family still resides. He and his wife and three children live on a small farm with dogs, horses, pigs, chickens and a various assortment of yard fowl. His brother, Robert, represented Virginia's vast, mostly rural Fifth District in the U.S. House of Representatives for three terms.