



Off Camera

August 2007

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The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences
San Francisco/Northern California Chapter

Pete Wilson, an award-winning fixture on the San Francisco scene for more than two decades, died Friday, July 20th of a massive heart attack during hip surgery at Stanford Hospital on Thursday. He was 62.

For the last five years, Pete had co-anchored the dominant 6 p.m. weekday newscast on ABC-owned KGO-TV. He had first joined KGO in 1983 after leaving KXTL 40 in Sacramento. He had rejoined KGO in 2002 after spending 12 years at KRON 4.

KGO President and General Manager **Valari Staab** said, "Pete was one of the most valued and respected news professionals in the Bay Area and the country. This is a deep loss, both personally and professionally, for all of his friends and colleagues at Channel 7 and for me."

KGO News VP News **Kevin Keeshan** said, "Pete Wilson had a passionate commitment to ethical, responsible journalism. He never hesitated to question the status quo and take on the conventional wisdom of the day. His endless enthusiasm and love for political debate and discussion will be missed by everyone in our newsroom."

He earned numerous honors, including Associated Press awards and a half-dozen Emmy® awards. Wilson also shared two coveted Peabody Awards, including one for his coverage of the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake while at ABC7."

In addition to anchoring and reporting, Wilson hosted talk and interview shows, including a popular Bay Area afternoon radio program on KGO-AM 810 NewsTalk Radio.

Pete was a member of the NATAS Silver Circle, class of 2001. He is survived by his wife Sandra and a college age son Branden.



ABC 7, KGO-TV has established **The Pete Wilson Journalism Scholarship** to be administered and awarded annually by The Radio and Television News Directors Foundation (RTNDF). Individuals may add to the fund, increasing the annual scholarship amount, with tax deductible donations to the fund.

KGO-TV President and General Manager **Valari Staab** said: "I strongly believe that Pete would approve of this scholarship as a legacy of his profes-

sional life. He believed in the important role that journalism serves in a free society and wanted the profession to continue to attract smart, passionate people."

RTNDF president **Barbara Cochran** said, "RTNDF is honored that ABC7, KGO-TV has entrusted us with administering the Pete Wilson Scholarship. Pete was nationally known as an excellent and dedicated journalist. It is quite fitting that a scholarship in his name will help prepare journalists of the future."

Donations to the fund in Pete's memory can be made by check to:

Pete Wilson Journalism Scholarship
RTNDF
Suite 700
1600 K Street NW
Washington, DC 20006

Individuals may also donate by credit card by calling 1-800-80-RTNDA (1-800-807-8632), extension 251.

Related stories on pages 2 and 8.

THE PRODUCER'S LAMENT (WILSON FALLS)

Written by **Jim Gaughran**, Executive Producer, NBC 11 (Former producer for Pete Wilson at KRON 4)



*Oh, my God, Pete Wilson's here.
I'm already so behind.
I'll never get this rundown in
If he gets inside my mind.*

*And you know that's what will happen.
He'll sit down and he'll sigh
If I ask him what he's thinking
I can kiss my night goodbye.*

*But I really do have work to do,
I've no time to debate
If Medea Benjamin
Should be imprisoned by the state.*

*The show is in the balance here
And I DON'T mean to get huffy
But I can't spend 40 minutes, Pete
Defending Bevan Dufty.*

*Or debating immigration
Or who shot J-F-K.
And no, Pete, I do not believe
That Gavin Newsom's gay.*

*Then he'll talk like Walter Brennan
And he'll imitate John Wayne.
Then we'll deconstruct Red River
While the show goes down the drain.*

Politics and movies
We'll argue til I'm fried.
And if I give up and just agree
He'll just take the other side!

And of course, he'll never read his scripts
He just ad-lib as we go.
He'll put us so far over
I'll have to JIP the Leno Show.

No. I won't let him seduce me.
I won't accept defeat!
There has to be a way to block
The all-consuming Pete!

I'll pretend to read the paper
I'll pretend to use the phone
I'll dial random numbers
And talk to dial tone.



Jim Gaughran
KNTV-TV EXEC. PRODUCER

*Pete Wilson Memorial Service, Herbst Theatre,
Sunday, July 29, 2007*

I'll turn my back and plug my ears
Ignore the siren calls
I won't climb in that barrel
And go over Wilson Falls.

My only chance – abandon ship
I'll take it on the lam.
Find a desk across the room
And let him feast on Pam.

But, wait there's something holding me
The floor's too steep to climb.
Pete's gravity is so intense
He's warping space and time!

Now his Irish eyes are smiling!
And he's got that goofy grin!
He's starting to sing Danny Boy!
Screw the show – I'm in!

At least .. that's what I remembered
When I heard that Pete had died.
A fearsome force of nature
Not some ordinary guy.

There is some truth to that of course
He was big and strong and smart
But the truly super-HUMAN thing
Was the size of Peter's heart.

He shared that heart with all of us
If we wanted it or not
His extraordinary love of life
Was the gift that Peter brought.

So, for us, where Pete once stood
There's now a great abyss.
We stare into the void
And wonder what to make of this.

If I may .. think of him smiling
And remember him that way.
And show your friends the love
Pete Wilson showed US every day.

WE WILL MISS YOU PETE



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