

Gold & Silver Circle Profiles



GOLD & SILVER CIRCLE PROFILES

by Kevin Wing



Back around 1993 or so, I had the wonderful pleasure and opportunity to meet **Wanda Ramey**. I remember being one of the nicest women I'd ever met.

Ramey made history in the Bay Area. She also made history in the United States. She was the first female newscaster on the West Coast, and only one of two working in the country at that time. That's when KPIX in San Francisco hired her, in 1957, as part of a new, half-hour midday news broadcast.



Wanda Ramey

Ramey was referred to in those days as "Channel 5's Gal on the Go", "Girl on the Beat" and "Woman on the Beat".

She was inducted into the *Silver Circle* of the San Francisco/Northern California Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences in 1989.

Ramey, born in Terre Haute, Indiana, moved to the Bay Area after graduating from Indiana State Teachers College in 1945.

Her first post-college broadcasting job was at KPIK Radio in San Luis Obispo. After that, she returned to the Bay Area to work at several other stations.

In 1952, Ramey was hired by KGO-TV in San Francisco to host *Midday with Wanda*, an interview program that didn't last long. In 1954, she hosted *The Woman Behind the*

Man, interviewing the wives of famous Bay Area men.

She eventually went to work at KCBS Radio, hosting a show called *Meet Me at Mannings*, an interview program featuring women.

But, it wasn't until 1957, when she was hired by KPIX, that her career really took off.

Ramey, at one time, estimated that she had interviewed more than 1,200 personalities during her career. Her most memorable interview was with **Eleanor Roosevelt**, who was Ramey's own inspiration as a young girl.

Ramey left KPIX in 1967. She eventually served as a Bay Area-

based correspondent for Voice of America and worked part-time at KQED Channel 9.

In the late 1960s, she worked as a reporter at KGO-TV with its nightly *Newsbeat* newscast.

Ramey, who received numerous honors and accolades during her career, including an Emmy Award, was married to **Richard "Dick" Queirolo**, a sheet-metal contractor and artist who later



Ramey, interviewing Gov. **Ronald Reagan**



In the KPIX newsroom

became a TV camera operator, working alongside his wife.

Ramey died at her home in Greenbrae in 2009.

Her longtime friend, comedienne **Phyllis Diller** (a Bay Area native), said of Ramey at the time: "Having Wanda for a friend is like having a million dollars in your checking account."

Kevin Wing is a San Francisco-based producer for ABC News' "Good Morning America". He is also regional vice president, representing San Francisco, on the Board of Governors of

the San Francisco/Northern California Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, and serves as editor of "Off Camera". Tweet Kevin @KevinWingABC

Soundbites



The Bay Area is getting reacquainted with KNTV NBC Bay Area's **Kira Klapper**. Originally with KGO-TV ABC7 in San Francisco, Klapper joined the NBC station in San Jose in late 2014. And, she's loving her new job as the Saturday morning anchor of *Today in the Bay!* Now, here is your chance to get to know