

TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2014

The Silver Circle is not an award -- it is a society of honor. To be eligible for membership, individuals must have been actively engaged in television broadcasting for 25 years or more (with at least half of those years in the chapter region), made a significant contribution to their local television markets and distinguished themselves within the industry and the community. *Silver Circle* inductees are elected by current members of the *Silver Circle*.

The Gold Circle honors individuals who have been actively engaged in television broadcasting for 50 years or more (with at least half of those years in the chapter region) and who have fulfilled the same criteria as *Silver Circle* nominees. *Gold Circle* inductees are elected by the NATAS Chapter Board of Governors.

Neither the candidate nor the nominator need be a member of NATAS.

Inductees will join the ranks of television luminaries such as: **Belva Davis, Roberta Gonzalez, Spencer Christian, Jim Swanson, Don Ford, Pam Moore, Marty Gonzalez, Ysabel Durón, Pete Wilson, Barbara Rodgers, Kevin Wing, Dave McElhatton, Wendy Tokuda, Rigo Chacon, Sydnie Kohara, John Kessler, Dennis Richmond, Belva Davis, Ross McGowan, Ed Pearce** (Reno), **Nancy Osborne** (Fresno), **Pam Young** (Hawaii), **Dan Adams** (Sacramento), **Suzanne Shaw, Luis Echegoyen, Rita Williams, Don McCuaig, Shirley Temple Black, Charles Schulz, Jack Hanson, Jim Vargas, Don Sanchez, Joe Fonzi, Cheryl Hurd, Jack LaLanne** and **Elaine LaLanne**.

NATAS 2013 *Gold & Silver Circle* Induction Luncheon

Parc 55 Wyndham Hotel San Francisco, 55 Cyril Magnin Street,
Market at Fifth

FALL 2014

Exact date to be announced.

Gold & Silver Circle Profiles



GOLD & SILVER CIRCLE PROFILES

by Kevin Wing



Pete Wilson was a storied television news mainstay in the Bay Area and northern California for nearly three decades, most notably in San Francisco, where he anchored the news on KGO-

TV ABC7 during two different eras, separated only by a long tenure at KRON across town.



Inducted into the *Silver Circle* of the San Francisco/Northern California Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences in 2005, Wilson died unexpectedly in July 2007 after undergoing hip replacement surgery. Wilson's passing shocked the Bay Area television community. He was well-liked by his peers, and he was popular with Bay Area viewers, engaging his audience with a style that sometimes would raise a few eyebrows, yet endeared them enough to keep coming back for more, night after night.

Born in Wisconsin in April 1945, Wilson graduated from the University of Wisconsin in Madison, majoring in journalism and creative writing. He was also a Vietnam War veteran. He began his broadcasting career at a small country-western radio station in Milwaukee while attending graduate school.

His first television job was at WTMJ in Wisconsin, but it wouldn't be long before he headed to California. In 1979, he became news anchor and news director at KTXL in Sacramento, doing the nightly *NewsPlus* broadcasts for the then-independent station (it is now Sacramento's Fox affiliate.).

The Bay Area took notice of Wilson in the early 1980s, and in 1983, he made the move to the Bay Area to anchor the 5 p.m. news at KGO-TV. Three years later, in the summer of 1986, with the departure of the station's legendary *News Scene* anchor, **Fred Van Amburg**, Wilson became the station's main male anchor.

Although he only remained at KGO-TV until 1990, Wilson was there to anchor coverage following the devastating Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989.

In 1990, he surprised the industry, and viewers, when he shifted stations and went to work for KRON, anchoring all of its evening newscasts. His arrival at KRON was considered quite a coup for the station at that time. Wilson helped to bolster the station's credibility and its ratings, but in the end, he would only remain there 12 years. In late 2001, KRON was on the verge of losing its 52-year affiliation with NBC to San Jose's KNTV, and Wilson was the first of many high-profile employees to leave the station. He returned to KGO-TV ABC7, where he would anchor the station's 6 p.m. newscasts for the next five years, until his death in 2007.



In addition to his television chores, Wilson was also a popular voice on Bay Area talk radio. In 2000, he began a weekday afternoon talk show on KGO Radio, airing live from 2 to 4 p.m. When he finished each show at KGO Radio, which was one floor above KGO-TV in the ABC Broadcast Center, Wilson would then head downstairs to prepare for the 6 p.m. newscasts.



Wilson, always the professional whether it was delivering the news to television viewers or engaging his radio listeners with some interesting aspect about current events and the news of the day, also took humor in the human condition with what made us tick or with what we, as humans, would do to one another that might spark interest with the general public. For years, from KGO-TV to KRON, he ended his broadcasts with a humorous look at the day with what was called "The Circular File". True to form, nothing got by Wilson. Nothing. And the viewers loved it.

During his illustrious career, Wilson won six

regional Emmys and two prestigious **George Foster Peabody** awards. He was an avid golfer, passionate about the game. And, he loved oil-painting landscapes. Early on-air promotional spots at KRON showed Wilson outside in front of a canvas, paint brush in hand. He also loved talking about politics.

Mention Pete Wilson's name to any longtime resident of the Bay Area, and he will likely be remembered for his on-air demeanor. Call out his name to any of his many friends, colleagues and peers, and it would be extremely difficult to find anyone who would have something uncomplimentary to say about him. Pete Wilson was a very unique, well-liked Bay Area television journalist. Our profession continues to miss him.

Soundbites



This month, we head out to the Central Valley for a visit with KMPH 26's Kopi Sotiropulos, who's been waking up Fresno for years on Great Day! Now, it's time to find out more about Kopi, one of Fresno's most well-known television personalities.

Where did you grow up?

Fresno, California

Do you have siblings? If so, are you the oldest? Youngest?

Brother Pete. I'm older.

When did you first realize that you wanted to be in television news?

In college

Who has inspired you in your career?

Bill Cosby

Who has inspired you as a person?

My parents

Before KMPH FOX 26, where did you work before?

It is actually work at KMPH Fox 26. I have never worked for another station.

As an anchor, every day at work is different from the one before it. Can you describe a "day in the life of Kopi"?

I get to work by 3-3:30 AM. Edit videos for segments I shoot everyday called Great Day Faces, Kopi's Exclusive 10 Day Forecast and 7th Inning Stretch. We have our production meeting. On the air from 5-10 a.m. Co-anchor, do weather and traffic. I'm out and about everyday, either at a school talking to kids about the weather, the importance of staying away from gangs and drugs, the importance of an education. Like most anchors, I emcee community luncheons and other events.