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ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER OF NATIONAL ACADEMY OF TELEVISION ARTS AND SCIENCES NAMES SILVER, GOLD CIRCLE INDUCTEES

The Rocky Mountain Southwest Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS) announces its 2009 honorees for the Silver Circle and Gold Circle Societies.

Silver Circle recipients include:

- Guy Atchley, of Tucson, who worked at KGUN TV and spent the past 24 years as Tucson host of the Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Telethon;
- Sue Breeding, of Phoenix, a reporter with KTVK TV for more than 16 years as well as a reporter in Los Angeles and for The Weather Channel;
- Bruce Dunbar, of Phoenix, a reporter with FOX 10 for more than a decade as well as a reporter in South Bend, Ind., Norfolk, Virg., Tulsa, Okla., and Louisville, Ken.;
- Tony Escobar, of Phoenix, who has worked in virtually all areas of the station including camera operating, management and commercial production;
- John Howe, of Salt Lake City, who has spent more than 25 years with KUED TV, Utah's PBS affiliate;
- Jan Jacobson, of Phoenix, a past NATAS president and the driving force behind the inception of the Silver and Gold Circles who has worked in advertising, public relations, marketing and public affairs radio for more than 25 years; and
- David Ross, of Tucson, the director of engineering for Arizona Public Media with more than 30 years experience in broadcast engineering for various radio and television stations nationwide.

Gold Circle recipients include:

- Maurie Helle, of Phoenix, who began his career in television production in 1959 in Ohio and spent 25 years at KOOL TV in Phoenix before starting his own production company, Helle International, Inc., in the late 1980s and later publishing his first novel in 2008;
- Pat McMahon, of Phoenix, an Arizona legend who dedicated 30 years to Arizona kids playing “Gerald” on the Wallace and Ladmo Show and currently hosts a television program on AZTV7, acts as director of public affairs for News 92.3 KTAR and contributes to “Arizona Morning News,” “McMahon Group” and “The God Show;” and
- Bill Thompson, of Phoenix, who is regarded as the driving force behind the Wallace and Ladmo Show.

Honorees were inducted in the societies at a ceremony held at the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown Hotel Down on April 19, 2009.

The chapter established its Silver Circle Society in 1992. To be eligible for the Silver Circle honor, individuals must have served in the broadcast industry for a minimum of 25 years. Nominations are accepted from broadcast journalism, talent, creative, technical, administrative, as well as TV commercial production and TV education.

To be eligible for the Gold Circle, individuals must have served in the industry for a minimum of 50 years, within the same categories as the silver circle. The Gold Circle Society was established in 2005.

NATAS is a professional service organization dedicated to the advancement of the arts and sciences of television and the promotion of creative leadership for artistic, educational and technical achievements within the television industry. The Rocky Mountain Southwest Chapter, formed in 1959, represents Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, and El Centro, Calif.