

Inducted November 29, 2016



Budd McEntee

Budd McEntee spent nearly two decades at the helm of the largest local broadcast news operation in the southeast. As vice president of news at WAGA-TV in Atlanta, he nearly tripled newscast airtime to 57 hours per week. He emphasized day-to-day, breaking news coverage, while also building the I-Team staff and budget, transforming the unit into a powerhouse of long-form, investigative journalism respected and admired across the country.

McEntee steered WAGA-TV's successful transition from CBS affiliate to FOX affiliate to FOX O&O. He developed one of the nation's top-rated prime time newscasts and supervised the creation and expansion of five and a half hours of locally produced, weekday morning news.

By the time McEntee retired from the station in 2010, he had been the vice president of news for nearly two decades, leaving a legacy of tough, aggressive news coverage that remains a hallmark of the station's "dedicated, determined and dependable" mission.

During his nearly 40-year career, McEntee has been a producer, executive producer, managing editor and news director. Under McEntee's leadership, the station's much admired, much emulated I-Team was recognized with the Peabody Award for Investigative Journalism. McEntee and his team won the Emmy for best newscast six times between 2000-2010. McEntee was inducted into the NATAS Silver Circle and is a past president of the Atlanta Press Club.

The best journalism is the result of team effort, flourishing consistently because of the support and guidance of executive vision and leadership, and it is personified by one of Atlanta's toughest and most successful journalism executives, Budd McEntee.