

1989

Patricia A. Ecker

Class of 1963



Emmy award-winning television reporter and Pittsburgh native Patricia Ecker received numerous honors while working with Los Angeles' KCBS-TV. Her successful "Sunday's Child" profiled children considered hard to adopt because of age, ethnicity or disability. More than 200 children were subsequently adopted. Ecker was recognized for this work by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and was named "Distinguished Volunteer of the Year" by the County of Los Angeles.

Her news reporting has been similarly recognized. In 1985, she received a first-place award from the Los Angeles Press Club for "Best Spot News." In 1987, she was awarded an Emmy for "Best News Reporting" and was part of the Action News team given Emmy, Golden Mike, AP and Press Club honors for coverage of an October 1987 earthquake.

Ecker was the station's helicopter reporter from 1979 to 1981. In that role, she received a California AP award for live helicopter coverage of the Agoura fire. She also helped rescue flood victims at Lake Elstmore while reporting by helicopter there.

Before joining the television station she was a publicity director for the Cinerama Releasing Corp., and a history teacher in Port Washington, N.Y.

Ecker retired from KCBS in 1994. She and a friend created a publishing company specializing in publications for school districts. In 2012, she retired again and is an active volunteer in her senior community.

Additional degrees: Master's degree, Illinois Institute of Technology