

Greg Caputo



Freedom Area Class of 1966

"I cannot imagine a person becoming a success who doesn't give the game of life everything he's got."
-Walter Cronkite

Greg Caputo grew up in Freedom and is the son of Eugene and Eleanor Caputo. After graduating from Freedom Area High School in 1966, he attended the University of Notre Dame. While still in college, he started in the news industry as a reporter, writer, producer, photographer and editor of WNDU-TV and Radio in South Bend. He earned a BA in Communication Arts in 1970 from Notre Dame and his Master of Science in Journalism from Northwestern University's prestigious Medill School of Journalism.

Greg recently retired as the news director of WGN-TV in Chicago. He joined WGN-TV as news director in December 2002. Greg led the news operation of consistently top-ranked local newscasts: WGN Morning News, WGN Midday News, WGN News at Five and WGN News at Nine, while also overseeing the local 24-hour/day cable news channel, CLTV, and WGNtv.com news content. Under his watch WGN Morning News, WGN Midday News, and WGN Evening News broadcasts all expanded, producing 54 hours a week of local news. Greg also oversaw the integration of the 24-hour cable news station, CLTV, with WGN-TV in August, 2009, creating the Chicago area's largest and most powerful television newsroom.

Greg joined WGN-TV from Tribune station WLVI-TV in Boston, where he served as news director for seven years. During his tenure, WLVI News remained a consistent market leader at 10 pm, earning multiple local Emmys, as well as Associated Press and Radio-Television News Director Association awards. Prior to WLVI, he spent three years as corporate director of news for Malrite Communications group in Ohio. While there, he launched a news operation at their Fox affiliate WXIX, Cincinnati and assumed news leadership at the new two station cluster of CBS affiliate WOIO and

independent station WUAB in Cleveland.

As vice president and news director at WFLD in Chicago in 1985 and from 1987-1993, Greg developed and launched news broadcasts on the station. He held the same position at WNYW, New York and WTTG, Washington, D.C. from 1986-1987. Starting in 1972 and into 1985, Greg held a variety of positions at WBBM-TV CBS affiliate leading to the news director position in 1983. He also worked for Group W Television KDKA-TV in the mid-seventies as the assignment manager.

He has been president of the Board of Governors of the Boston-New England Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS), a governor of the Chicago Chapter of NATAS and a member of the Radio Television Digital News Association. He has also been a guest lecturer at many prestigious universities including Northwestern University, Columbia University in New York, Boston University and Emerson College in Boston.

In 2013, Greg was inducted in the Silver Circle of the Chicago/Midwest Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, which recognized him as “a respected newsroom leader and mentor to many Chicago reporters and anchors.”

After his long and productive career, Greg looks forward to retirement and focusing on everything from his family to his woodworking hobby. “I’m going to take some time and chill, and enjoy the grandkids, enjoy not doing anything, enjoy not having any deadlines to worry about, and then probably figure out what might be next, if anything,” he said. Greg has been married for 44 years to Ellen and lives in Glenview, IL. He has three children, Katie, Michael, and Elizabeth, and six grandchildren. A seventh grandchild is expected in December, 2014. Two of his children, Katie and Elizabeth, live in the Chicago area. His son, Michael, lives in the Cleveland area.