

JCCIA Journal

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~ Organized in 1952 ~



Caputo a worthy Dante honoree

by Jo Ann Serpico, President

Greg Caputo, news director of WGN Channel 9 television, our 2009 Dante Award recipient, credits his Italian heritage for his belief that — with hard work, dedication, compassion and intelligence — the American dream can be realized.

Greg's grandparents were immigrants to this country in the early 20th century. All four were from Calabria. It is the example of immigrants that Greg believes has had the most influence on his life and career.

The Joint Civic Committee recognizes his accomplishments and is proud to name Greg this year's Dante honoree.

A MEDIA LEADER



Greg Caputo joined WGN-TV as news director in December 2002. Caputo leads the news operation of consistently top-ranked local newscasts: WGN Morning News, WGN Midday News, WGN Evening News and WGN News at Nine. Under Caputo's watch, WGN Morning News, WGN Midday News and WGN Evening News broadcasts have all expanded.

Mr. Caputo 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 p.m., earning multiple local Emmys, as well as Associated Press and RTNDA 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 its Fox affiliate WXIX in 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 to 1993, Mr. Caputo developed and launched news broadcasts on the station. He held the same position at WNYW, New York, and WTTG, Washington, D.C., from 1986 to 1987. Starting in 1972 and onward

into 1985, Mr. Caputo held a variety of positions at WBBM-TV, a CBS affiliate, leading to the news director position in 1983. He also worked for Group W Television KDKA-TV as its assignment manager in the mid-1970s. Mr. Caputo started in the industry as a reporter, writer, producer, photographer and editor at WNDU-TV and Radio in South Bend, Ind., in 1968.

Mr. Caputo graduated from University of Notre Dame with a bachelor's degree in communication arts and received his MSJ from Northwestern University's prestigious Medill School of Journalism. He has been president of the Board of Governors of the Boston-New England Chapter of NATAS, a governor of the Chicago Chapter of NATAS and a member of the RTNDA. He has also been a guest lecturer at many prestigious universities, including Northwestern University, Columbia University in New York, and Boston University and Emerson College in Boston, to name a few.

A SPECIAL THANKS!

I extol the nominating committee and our legal adviser for their long exhausting process and the thoroughness of their consideration.

Our commonality is our passion for the longevity of the Joint Civic Committee. It's our history and tradition that cements the appeal of our umbrella.

The award-winning choice of our new officers is a powerful influence on our community. This in itself vividly speaks to JCCIA's hold.

I have much to be proud of. It's rewarding enough to be president of the JCCIA. I continue with eagerness to set directions, achieve results and cultivate a culture of growth.

