LILIA CHACON

Lilia Chacon’s 30-year journalism career took her from Chicago to Albuquerque, from Guatemala to Vatican City in pursuit of news and newsmakers.

Lilia was born in Syracuse, New York to Stella and Rafael Chacon, immigrants from Guatemala and Costa Rica who she says were crazy, brave and resourceful enough to start a new life here. Spanish was always spoken in the home, so Lilia learned English from TV cartoons and classmates at school. Her family settled in Riverwoods and Northbrook in Chicago’s suburbs. She graduated from Glenbrook North High School, continued at Oakton Community College, The School of the Art Institute, and The Institute Americain Universitaire in Aix-en-Provence. At Northern Illinois University, she worked for NIU’s student newspaper the Northern Star, while earning her Broadcast Journalism degree.

Lilia’s first job as a big time journalist was for the Chicago City News Bureau and she was working for WFLD-TV News at Marina City the night Harold Washington became the mayor of Chicago. She won a Peter Lisagor Award for a series on Guatemalan kidnappings she freelanced to the Chicago Tribune.

Lilia spent 5 years at the CBS affiliate in Albuquerque, New Mexico reporting and anchoring weekends. She also did a weekly nature series called The Outdoors Report.

In 1989, Fox News Chicago News Director Greg Caputo brought Lilia back home and for the next 21 years, she covered breaking news, hard news, politics and Chicago’s record-setting weather.

Lilia won the first of 6 Chicago/Midwest Emmy® Awards covering the Chicago flood of 1992, when the damaged wall of a utility tunnel resulted in water from the Chicago River wreaking havoc in the Loop, flooding banks and department stores. She reported from the Oklahoma City bombing site, tornado-ravaged Plainfield, Havana Cuba with Fidel Castro, Vatican City when Chicago’s Archbishop George was elevated to Cardinal and again when Pope John Paul II died.

Lilia left Fox 32 in 2010, and worked 4 years in Chicago City Hall as Communications Director for then-Treasurer Stephanie Neely. In early 2016, she returned to Chicago from Des Moines after a 5-month stint as Iowa Press Secretary for Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders.