

Saturday, June 22, 2013

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7 Action News reporter Cheryl Chodun announces her retirement



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(WXYZ) - After a career in journalism that has spanned more than 35 years, 7 Action News reporter Cheryl Chodun has announced her retirement.

Chodun began her career as a freelance newspaper reporter before joining WXYZ in 1978 as a news writer. She went on to report news for WCXI and WWJ radio before being recruited back to WXYZ's 7 Action News as an on-air reporter in 1988. Since then, she has covered a wide variety of local and national stories; including the arrest of Timothy McVeigh in the Oklahoma federal building bombing, the beating death of Detroit's Malice Green, and the federal trial of Detroit Police Chief William Hart. Many of her reports have been broadcast live on national media networks.

Throughout her career she has developed a reputation for being tenacious, fast and first. Her dedicated approach to story-telling has earned her many exclusive interviews.

"While we're very happy for Cheryl as she enters this new chapter of her life, we're also very sorry to say farewell to our friend," said WXYZ News Director Tim Dye. "She is the gold-standard when it comes to street reporters. No one is more dedicated to gathering stories and more connected to the newsmakers in Detroit than Cheryl. She is held in the highest regard by everyone in the industry and she will be deeply missed here at 7 Action News."

Chodun has won two Emmy awards, including one for individual excellence in reporting. She was honored by the Michigan Associated Press in 2000 for photojournalism, and in 2004 and 2009 for best reporting and spot news coverage. In 2004 she received an award for excellence in the media from the Wayne County Sheriff's office. In 2010 she won the Silver Circle Award from the Michigan Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, and the Wayne State University Award for outstanding journalism.

"This has been an amazing career," said Chodun. "I have met so many fascinating people, I have told so many interesting and unbelievable stories. I feel as passionate now about what we do as I did the day I started. There is no question I am going to miss this, but I look forward to what I hope will be an exciting and fulfilling next chapter."

Chodun says she plans to spend time with her husband, children and grandchildren and do more volunteer work in the community. She also hopes to teach journalism to the next generation of reporters.

Chodun's last day on the air will be Friday, July 26th, 2013.

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