

CLASS OF



1971

MARILYN MITZEL

Marilyn Mitzel graduated from Bismarck High School in 1971. What matters most to her is making a difference in people's lives. Marilyn began her broadcast career in Bismarck, North Dakota, at KFYZ-TV as a general assignment reporter. She was quickly promoted to anchor. After nearly three years in North Dakota, she jumped to WRTV in Indianapolis, then to WSVN in Miami. Medical and investigative reporting became her special calling and she has received several awards including The United Press International first place award for her special report on kidney transplants; and a first place award from the Associated Press for a news series examining the plight of the facially disfigured. This series of reports also earned her the prestigious CASPER Award from the Indiana State Medical Association.

Mitzel's achievements include the "Ryan White Story," about a young man whose courage helped educate the world about AIDS and contributed to Congress passing the "Ryan White Act." Several of Mitzel's medical stories are archived at the National Library of Congress. While taking a break from the broadcast industry, Mitzel served with the White House Press Advance Corps under the first Bush Administration. During her career, she has interviewed five U.S. presidents.

Among Mitzel's many awards, she received an Emmy Award for her half-hour special, "A Matter of Life and Death," and an Emmy nomination for her series, "Hope Never Dies."

Marilyn Mitzel has come full circle. She is once again working at KFYZ as the morning anchor. She states, "I have always loved North Dakota and always thought about coming back here. You know what they say, be careful what you wish for, it just might come true. So I'm back in my home state with the greatest people on the planet."

