



Iola Vivian Johnson, Class of 1964
U of A Class of 1971
Television News Anchor
Community Leader

An award-winning journalist, Iola's career spans more than 35 years. She was the first African American and one of the first women to anchor a primetime, weeknight newscast. Iola is very highly respected in the broadcasting industry and is recognized as one of the best News Anchors in Tucson and in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area. She ranked second only to Roger Staubach, former quarterback for the Dallas Cowboys, as the most popular personality in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area.

She considers her coverage of the war and famine in the Horn of Africa the highlight of her career! Her reporting on ABC World News Tonight helped to shed light on the largely overlooked genocide.

Early in her career, lola gained recognition for her coverage of the Pioneer Hotel Fire on KVOA, Channel 4 in Tucson from the Arizona Press Club. She also received The Tucson Unified School District School Bell Award for her coverage of district programs and students, along with numerous other awards for broadcasting excellence.

Among her other recognitions, she was profiled in the book Texas Women, along with the late Congresswoman Barbara Jordon and Astronaut Mae Jemison. She is also profiled in Texas Black Women, Who's Who Among American Women and Outstanding Young Women of America. The (Dallas) Black Academy of Arts and Letters recognized her as one of 20 Living Legends. She was also named a Living Legend of North Texas Journalism by the Press Club of Dallas and received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Dallas-Ft. Worth Association of Black Communicators.

lola has been a member of The Links, Inc., Tucson and Dallas chapters; The Tucson Urban League, The NAACP and other boards.

lola has a deep intrinsic love for children and is an advocate for children. She made it her duty as a journalist to bring to the attention of the public and public officials the plight of the underprivileged and needy.

Her television career was cut short by an automobile accident, which left her permanently partially disabled. She played an integral role in raising three of her nieces and one nephew, who call her their "bonus mom"!

lola is now retired and divides her time between homes in Dallas and Tucson when she's not "traveling the world"!