

2005: Anne Garrels, National Public Radio

For three decades, Americans have relied on Anne Garrels' outstanding journalism to help them understand the most complex, and often the most troubling developments in the world. As a broadcast journalist, she has covered breaking news in almost all of the world's hot spots: the Soviet Union, China, Central America, Middle East, Central Asia, the Balkans, and most recently and memorably, in Iraq. Educated at Harvard University, she was drawn into journalism by fascination with the Soviet Union and with Russia's history and culture.

Gravitating toward broadcast journalism, she excelled quickly, serving as Moscow bureau chief of ABC News in the early 1980s. She was expelled from the Soviet Union in 1982 by the pre-glasnost Soviet government, and then reported on the rise of Solidarity and its travail under Polish martial law. In 1984-85, Garrels served as the network's Central American correspondent at the height of the civil wars and American interventions in that region.

After several years of service as NBC News' State Department correspondent in Washington, in 1988 she joined National Public Radio, where she is now a senior foreign correspondent. At NPR she covered the globe, on both Gulf Wars, and from Chechnya, Kosovo, Israel, Saudi Arabia, and the nations of the former Soviet Union.

In 1992, she was part of an NPR team that won the Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award, and in 1996 the Overseas Press Club honored her with the Whitman Bassow Award for a series on water issues around the globe. In 2003, she received the International Women's Media Foundation's Courage in Journalism Award in 2003.

Garrels' voice is most familiar to Americans who followed the progress of the invasion of Iraq in 2003, when she was the only broadcaster among 16 American journalists who remained at their posts in Baghdad during the invasion. Her coverage of that war, and especially, its impact on ordinary Iraqis from all walks of life, was extraordinarily courageous and insightful. Garrels is convinced that journalism's central task is to document what people think about their own lives and why. And her book, *Naked in Baghdad*, shows how compelling that form of journalism can be. Jon Lee Anderson of the *New Yorker*, who also stayed at work in Baghdad, struck the right note when he praised her: "Blessed with razor-sharp intelligence and bravery in equal measure, Anne Garrels is also knowledgeable, fair minded, and unerringly honest."