

Katherine A. Couric

An award-winning journalist, a best-selling author, and a tireless advocate for cancer research and awareness, you, Katie Couric, have been at the forefront of American culture for nearly three decades.

You are the host of *Katie*, a daily syndicated talk show. In November 2013, you joined Yahoo as its first global news anchor. This spring has seen the release of *Fed Up*, a documentary about the alarming spread of childhood obesity, for which you served as narrator and executive producer.

Courage is a hallmark of good journalism, and you have never shied away from asking the tough questions. Your skills as an interviewer and reporter have garnered many accolades, including an Alfred I. duPont Award for your groundbreaking interview with vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin in 2010 and an Emmy for Outstanding Interview for your profile of Captain Chesley “Sully” Sullenberger, titled “Saving Flight 1549.”

From the terrorist attacks of September 11 to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, you have covered the most important news stories of the last three decades. You reported on the Columbine shooting, the bombing in Oklahoma City, and the earthquake in Haiti. Over the years, you covered eight Olympic Games, the funeral of Princess Diana, and the royal wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton in 2011.

You began your broadcast journalism career in 1979 as a desk assistant at ABC News in Washington, D.C., following your graduation with honors from the University of Virginia. You quickly made a name for yourself, and 10 years later you became the deputy Pentagon correspondent for NBC News, and later, the national correspondent for the *Today* show. For 15 years, you were the co-anchor of that program, bringing it to number one and keeping it there. You then became the first solo female anchor of an evening newscast when you took the helm of the *CBS Evening News*. You later became special correspondent with ABC News, contributing to all broadcasts and anchoring primetime specials.

In addition to your work as an anchor and broadcast news reporter, you are the author of a New York Times bestseller, *The Best Advice I Ever Got: Lessons from Extraordinary Lives*, and two children’s books, *The Brand New Kid* and *The Blue Ribbon Day*.

When you lost your husband, Jay Monahan, to colon cancer in 1998, you met grief with action, becoming a public leader in the fight against cancer. In 2000, you launched the National Colorectal Cancer Research Alliance with the Entertainment Industry Foundation and cancer activist Lilly Tartikoff. The Alliance funds cutting-edge research and generates awareness about the lifesaving value of screening. Following your on-air colonoscopy in 2000, scientists documented a 20 percent increase in the number of colonoscopies performed in the United States, a phenomenon that researchers dubbed “The Couric Effect.” You established the Jay Monahan Center for Gastrointestinal Health at New York-Presbyterian Hospital and co-founded Stand Up To Cancer, an organization that has raised nearly \$280 million to accelerate research and get new treatments to patients faster.

In honor of your exemplary career in broadcast journalism and your unwavering commitment to cancer research and awareness, I have the honor of presenting you, Katherine A. Couric, for the degree of Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*.

James F. Jones, Jr.
President and Trinity College
Professor in the Humanities

Paul E. Raether '68
Chairman
Trinity College Board of Trustees

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