



DANIEL PEARL AWARD

*for courage and integrity
in journalism*

ANNE GARRELS

FROM BEIJING TO BAGHDAD, GARRELS STRAYED FAR TO THE DRUMBEAT OF WAR

BY JANE ENGLE

FOR MORE THAN two decades, Anne Garrels has been NPR's voice from the world's hotspots, braving constant danger and harsh conditions to put a human face on conflicts.

Called "one of America's most insightful and courageous journalists" by former "NBC Nightly News" anchor Tom Brokaw, Garrels, who retired in March as senior foreign correspondent for NPR's foreign desk, has been showered with honors from colleagues, including the George Polk Award, the 2004 CPB Edward R. Murrow Award and the Courage in Journalism Award from the International Women's Media Foundation.

Among Garrels' many daring assignments was covering Saddam Hussein's regime and the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq. She was among a handful of non-embedded American journalists who remained in Baghdad during the bombing of the Iraqi capital in 2003. As U.S.-led forces advanced, Garrels reported around the clock, describing the scene from the streets and interviewing locals as the drama unfolded.

Having arrived in Iraq in 2002, Garrels spearheaded NPR's coverage in the strife-torn Mideast nation until 2008. Embedded with U.S. troops there, and traveling on her own, she documented sectarian violence, the war's impact and the challenges ahead. Her intimate knowledge of Washington policy debates informed her radio reports and her book on her experiences in Iraq, "Naked in Baghdad" (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, September 2003).

Garrels has also reported from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Chechnya, Bosnia, Israel, Beijing's Tianan-

men Square and the former Soviet Union and its successor states. In recent years, she returned to Russia, producing a series that chronicled changes in the industrial city of Chelyabinsk.

Her reports have regularly appeared on NPR's "All Things Considered," "Morning Edition," "Weekend Edition" and "Day to Day."

Among Garrels' many admirers is veteran broadcaster Cokie Roberts, who once said of her:

"When I hear that a report from Annie Garrels is about to come on the radio, I stop what I'm doing and listen. I know I'm going to learn something re-



Anne Garrels in the field.

markable from some place I've never been and am never likely to go. Her reports from the crumbling Soviet Union and the resurrected Russia, from Afghanistan in turmoil and Baghdad under fire stand out as some of the bravest and most enlightening reporting for any news organization over the



last decade. Garrels is scrupulously fair, always thorough, unfailingly interesting, and unbelievably courageous.”

So iconic a presence is Garrels that actress Amy Ryan turned to her for tips on how to portray a foreign correspondent in the feature film “Green Zone,” a Matt Damon thriller set in Iraq and directed by Paul Greengrass that opened in March.

“I had the pleasure of speaking with Anne Garrels before I started the film,” Ryan told host Terry Gross on NPR’s “Fresh Air” in March. Garrels, she said, advised her on what clothes she wore, what she carried in her bag and even what type of pens she used.

Of course, it takes far more than pens to make an intrepid correspondent.

In a commencement speech in May at Millbrook School in Millbrook, N.Y., Garrels recalled how she had gone to 69 job interviews after graduating from Harvard University in 1972. Noting the tough job market today, she told graduates: “Knock on doors until your knuckles bleed.”

Before joining NPR in 1988, Garrels was the State Department correspondent for NBC News. Earlier, she worked for a decade at ABC in various positions, including Moscow bureau chief and cor-

respondent and Central American bureau chief. **Anne Garrels in Iraq.**

In 1996-97, she spent a year as an Edward R. Murrow Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. She is a member of the board of the Committee to Protect Journalists.

“When I hear that a report from Annie Garrels is about to come on the radio, I stop what I’m doing and listen. I know I’m going to learn something remarkable from some place I’ve never been and am never likely to go.” — Cokie Roberts

Garrels lives with her husband Vint Lawrence in Connecticut. Although retired as senior foreign correspondent, she continues as a contributor to NPR. 🇺🇸