



For Immediate Release

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## **ANN CURRY NAMED 2009 AWC INTERNATIONAL MATRIX AWARD HONOREE**

**ALEXANDRIA, Va., May 25, 2009** - The Association for Women in Communications (AWC) announces Ann Curry, news anchor of America's number one morning news program NBC News' "Today," and anchor of "Dateline NBC," as the 2009 International Matrix Award recipient.

Since 1998, the International Matrix Award has honored one outstanding individual each year for achieving the highest level of professional excellence in communications. Curry will be presented the award at the International Matrix & Clarion Awards Celebration Dinner on the evening of Sat., Oct. 17, during the 2009 AWC National Conference in Seattle, Wash. AWC is celebrating its centennial anniversary during this conference.

Curry first joined NBC News in August 1990 as a Chicago-based correspondent. Since then, she has distinguished herself in global humanitarian reporting frequently traveling to remote areas of the world for under-reported stories. During the span of one year, from March 2006 to March 2007, she traveled three times to Sudan to report on the violence and ethnic cleansing taking place in Darfur and Chad. While there, she provided in-depth reports focusing on the victims who have been caught in the deadly conflict of that region, and she also conducted exclusive interviews with Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir and Chadian President Idriss Deby.

In spring 2008, Curry broadcast live from the Democratic Republic of the Congo where she reported on the horrific struggles of the women and children from the city of Goma. She also traveled to Serbia in 2008 where she examined the deplorable conditions of Serbia's mental institutions. Curry, reporting for NBC News from Albania and Macedonia, was the first network news anchor to report on the humanitarian refugee crisis caused by the genocide in Kosovo in 1999.

Curry has conducted numerous exclusive interviews with world leaders and dignitaries, including a one-on-one with Dalai Lama during his trip to the U.S amid violence in Tibet in April 2008, and a sit-down with former Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto just two months before her assassination in December 2007. Curry also talked to Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari in his first-ever interview with an American news organization.

Other Curry exclusives include Liberia's Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the first female elected president of an African nation; the highly sought after interview with Thomas Hamill, the truck driver for Halliburton subsidiary KBR, who escaped captivity in Iraq; the interview with accused spy Wen Ho Lee after he was cleared of all charges of espionage against the



United States; and the first interview with the parents of the McCaughey septuplets. Curry repeatedly landed the first interview with Lance Armstrong after his Tour de France wins.

Curry has earned four Emmy Awards, four Golden Mikes, several Associated Press Certificates of Excellence, two Gracie Allen Awards, and an award for Excellence in Reporting from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). In June 2007, Curry was honored with the Simon Wiesenthal Medal of Valor for her extensive reporting in Darfur. She has been honored by AmeriCares, Save the Children, the Anti-Defamation League as a Woman of Achievement, and the Asian American Journalists Association, with its National Journalism Award in 2003. She has won numerous awards for her charity work, primarily for breast cancer research.

The AWC National Conference is the premier professional event for the communications industry, and this year AWC is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an organization. The Association for Women in Communications is a professional organization that champions the advancement of women across all communications disciplines by recognizing excellence, promoting leadership and positioning its members at the forefront on the evolving communications era. For more information, go to [www.womcom.org](http://www.womcom.org).

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