

Kent W. Jarrell

National Correspondent

WLISA TV

Class of 1969



By his own admission, Kent Jarrell spent his early years at Needham High School on the wrong path. Mr. Jarrell credits several caring teachers and especially the late William Valdina, a school counselor, as instrumental in guiding him toward the full realization of his potential. Upon graduation, Mr. Jarrell was distinguished with the first Wayne King Scholarship which was awarded to the student who had made the most progress during his high school career.

Following Needham High School, Mr. Jarrell attended Boston University where he earned a B.S. Degree. Mr. Jarrell has also received a Masters Degree from Northwestern University and had taken courses at the University of Nuechatel in Switzerland, the University of Manchester in England, and at Harvard University.

Currently Mr. Jarrell is a national correspondent based in Washington, D.C., for WUSA TV. In addition, he is a regular contributor to CBS News and has traveled nationally and internationally for the network. Mr. Jarrell is a "parachute man" for WUSA, the reporter on call for disasters. In his car he must keep a fully packed bag which includes his passport and clothes for several days and several climates. While completing his duties as parachute man, Mr. Jarrell has covered numerous disasters, both environmental and man-made. He has reported in the midst of Hurricane Hugo, in both St. Thomas and 72 hours later in South Carolina and he was involved in the coverage of the San Francisco earthquake. His other assignments have included tornadoes,

riots, a revolution, prison uprisings and many plane crashes. Mr. Jarrell quickly on the scene for the United crash in Sioux City, Iowa, the U.S. Air crash in New York, Pan Am 103 in Lockerbie, and others. In addition, Mr. Jarrell was awarded an Emmy for his coverage of the Amtrak railroad crash in Chase, Maryland.

In addition to his responsibilities for covering natural and other disasters, Mr. Jarrell's other assignment for WUSA has been the White House. Mr. Jarrell has accompanied the President on trips and has covered Mr. Clinton's economic and foreign policy agendas in Congress. Prior to this assignment, Mr. Jarrell reported on the Presidential election. He covered both the Democratic and Republican conventions, Ross Perot in Texas, and he traveled to 13 states to cover their primaries.

In recent years Mr. Jarrell's career has taken him to Amman, Jordan to cover the Persian Gulf War. He has been in Israel and the occupied territories to report on the Middle East. He has traveled to New Zealand to relate an international child custody case, to Ethiopia to report on the devastation of the famine, to Western Europe to report on terrorism, and to Panama to detail the aftermath of the U.S. invasion.

As a speaker, Mr. Jarrell has been a guest on international broadcasts for the United States Information Agency and he has spoken before audiences of the U.S. Council for Energy Awareness and the International Association of Aircraft Accident Investigators. Mr. Jarrell has also been invited to speak at various colleges, including, Boston University, the University of Southern California and Northwestern University.