

## Jim Bittermann

CNN's senior European correspondent in Paris



Jim Bittermann is CNN's senior European correspondent in Paris since 1996, previously was the ABC Paris correspondent from 1990 to 1996 and the NBC Paris and Rome correspondents from 1978 to 1990.

He has covered, among other stories, the death of Princess Diana in 1997, NATO air strikes on Kosovo and the World Cup soccer championships in 1998, the earthquake in Turkey in 1999, every French Presidential Election campaign since 1981. He also reported on Pope John Paul II from his enthronement to his death and the election of Pope Benedict XVI, the resignation of Benedict and the election of Pope Francis. In 2004 he wrote and co-produced the PBS syndicated documentary, *The Cheese Nun: Sister Noella's Voyage of Discovery*.

Bittermann joined CNN from ABC News, where he was a Paris news correspondent from 1990-1996. During his years with ABC, he covered a wide range of international events, including the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Gulf War and the Middle East peace process and the civil war in Somalia. His long-form projects at ABC included *Betrayed in Blood*, a report on the French AIDS-tainted blood scandal for PrimeTime Live and two, half-hour special reports for Nightline with Ted Koppel, *A Perfect Messiah* and *The Fashion Conspiracy*.

From 1978-1990, Bittermann was a European correspondent for NBC News. Based in Rome from 1978-1979, he covered the two Papal transitions, as well as the revolution in Iran, the Iran hostage crisis, the war in Beirut and the Italian earthquake. From 1980-1990, he was based in Paris. While there, he reported on many of the decade's major international stories in Eastern Europe, Northern and Western Africa, the Middle East, the Philippines, Japan and the Soviet Union. He received a national news Emmy Awards for his coverage of the 1988 Sudan famine for team coverage for NBC Nightly News.

Prior to NBC, Bittermann was a Toronto-based correspondent and producer for the Canadian Broadcasting Corp.'s News magazine, from 1975-1978 during which he landed on a Soviet ice station that invaded Canadian territory near the North Pole and profiled Canadian drinking habits from coast to coast. He also worked as a reporter for WKYC-TV in Cleveland, Ohio, from 1973-1975 after working one year for WQED-TV, a public television station in Pittsburgh.

In 1971-1972, Bittermann travelled with the national presidential campaign staffs of Sen. Birch Bayh of Indiana and Sen. Edmund Muskie of Maine. He began his career in broadcast journalism in 1970 at WTMJ-TV in Milwaukee, after five years of part time work as a newspaper reporter with the Waukegan News-Sun in Waukegan, Ill. 2020 will mark his 55<sup>th</sup> year in journalism.

In 2009 Bittermann was named a Chevalier in the Legion of Honor by then French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner. His many journalistic honors include a National Emmy for his coverage of the famine in the Sudan, CableACE Award for CNN's coverage of the civil war in Zaire. He has been a frequent panel moderator at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, and moderated panels in Qatar for UCLA's Burkle Center for International Studies as well as delivering lectures at the Ecole Militaire in Paris and Indiana State University. He is a member of the board of governors of the American Hospital of Paris and has been a jury member for the Fulbright Scholarship Media Awards, The French Food Spirit Award and the Bayeux (France)

War Correspondents Prize. He is the co-president and co-founder of the European-American Press Club. Since 1998, Bittermann has been associate professor of communications and senior lecturer at the American University of Paris, teaching courses in broadcast news and documentary film, among other subjects. In 2005 he was runner up for the prize of Distinguished Professor of the Year and is presently a professor emeritus at the university.

Bittermann earned a bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University, which in 1989 named him the Southern Illinois University's Journalism Alumnus of the Year. In 2000 he received the university's Alumni Achievement Award. He was named outstanding Alumni of the university in 2001 and in 2004 established the Jim Bittermann Scholarship for International Journalism Studies. In 2011 he established a scholarship in the name of his late wife and producer Pat Thompson with whom he created television production companies based in Paris, France and Paris, Texas, to produce documentaries for U.S. TV networks, companies which Bittermann continues to run since her death in 2010. In 2017 Bittermann married Mary Jean Lowe, a university counselor at the American School of Paris. He has one daughter, Dr. Tess Bittermann, a liver transplant specialist at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia. His hobbies include guitar playing, calvados making and in 2009, he grew the 13<sup>th</sup> largest pumpkin in France.