



American Women in Radio & Television Announces René Syler, CBS News' *The Early Show* Anchor, as Host of Gracie Allen Awards Luncheon

April 11, 2006 (McLean, VA) - American Women in Radio & Television (AWRT) is pleased to announce that René Syler, Anchor of CBS News' *The Early Show*, will be this year's Gracie Allen Awards® Luncheon Host. The Gracies® Awards Luncheon will take place on Tuesday, June 20, 2006, at 12:30 p.m. at Tavern on the Green in New York City. The Gracie Allen Awards recognize exemplary programming created for women, by women, and about women in all facets of electronic media.

René Syler was named an anchor of *The Early Show* in October 2002. From 1997 until she left in 2002, Rene was with KTVT, the CBS-owned station in Dallas. She began by anchoring the noon and 5 p.m. newscasts and then moved to the noon and 6 p.m. newscasts. She was also the morning and noon anchor at another Dallas station, WFAA-TV (1992-97). Syler was the weekend anchor at WVTM-TV Birmingham, AL (1990-92) and at KOLO-TV Reno, NV (1989-90), and was a weekend reporter at KTVN-TV, also in Reno, before that (1987-89).

She is a recipient of the 2004 Gracie Allen Award for Individual Achievement in the Best Anchor category. She is an active member of the Dallas/Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators and the National Association of Black Journalists. The Dallas/Ft. Worth Chapter of American Women in Radio and Television also awarded her Television Personality of the Year in 1997. Syler is married to Buff Parham, with whom she has two children.

"As a member of AWRT, I was thrilled to be asked to host the Gracie Allen Awards Luncheon," said Syler. She added, "It is a privilege to be among such an esteemed group of women who are being recognized for advancing the cause of women in the media."

A black-tie Gala will be held the preceding evening, June 19, 2006, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the New York Marriott Marquis, to honor the 2006 Gracie Allen Awards national winners.

The Gracies are presented by the Foundation of AWRT, the philanthropic arm of AWRT that supports educational programs, charitable activities, public service campaigns and scholarships to benefit the public, the electronic media and allied fields. The Gracie Allen Awards, established in 1975, honors programming and individuals of the highest caliber in all facets of radio, television, cable and web-based media, including news, drama, comedy, commercials, public service, documentary and sports.

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Tickets for the Luncheon are \$140 for AWRT Members, \$165 for Non-Members, and \$175 (if available) at the door.

Tickets for the Gala are \$275 for AWRT Members, \$300 for Non-Members, and \$350 (if available) at the door. Tickets for the Gala and Luncheon can be purchased online at www.awrt.org.

Sponsored tables are available. For more information, please contact Javier Cuebas at (703) 506-3290, ext. 2022.

For more information about the Gracie Allen Awards, please visit www.awrt.org.

About AWRT: The year 2006 marks the 55th Anniversary of American Women in Radio & Television (AWRT), the longest established professional association dedicated to advancing women in media and entertainment. AWRT carries forth its mission by educating, advocating and acting as a resource to its members and the industry at large. Founded in 1951, AWRT works to improve the quality of electronic media; promote the entry, development and advancement of women in the field; foster communication and idea exchange; and give back to the community we serve.

About The Foundation of AWRT: The Foundation of AWRT is the philanthropic arm of American Women in Radio and Television, supporting educational programs, charitable activities, public service campaigns and scholarships to benefit the public, the electronic media, entertainment and allied fields. The Foundation of AWRT has created strategic alliances and joint-initiatives with the National Middle School Association, Emma Bowen Foundation, American Red Cross and other organizations that are philosophically aligned with the mission of the Foundation of AWRT.

The Foundation of AWRT supports several public service campaigns including most recently AWRT Empowering America, a radio PSA campaign which pays tribute to many of America's most pioneering and inspiring women. Through this initiative, the Foundation of AWRT has adopted urban middle schools around the country and provided educational donations derived from collateral based on the Empowering America program. The Foundation also produces nationally acclaimed recognition programs including the Gracie Allen Awards®, a live, New York-based gala that recognizes exemplary programming created for, by, and about women.

For more information about AWRT and the Foundation of AWRT, including membership, call its headquarters at (703) 506-3290, or visit its web site at www.awrt.org.

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