

Distinguished Achievement Citation

James "Jim" Michaels

Class of 1979

With this presentation of Ohio Wesleyan University's Distinguished Achievement Citation, the Ohio Wesleyan Alumni Association Board of Directors is honored to recognize Jim Michaels for serving the nation as both a U.S. Marine infantry officer and as a war correspondent for several major U.S. newspapers.

Jim graduated from Ohio Wesleyan in 1979 with majors in English and Philosophy.

He was commissioned for the Marine Corps in 1981, serving as a platoon commander for 1st Battalion, 1st Marines. He also served as a Company Commander for 4th Reconnaissance Battalion in the reserves.

In 1990-91, he joined the 1st Marine Division in the Persian Gulf War, this time as a war correspondent for the San Diego Tribune. From here, Jim worked as a military reporter and investigative journalist at the San Antonio Light and as the City Editor at the Times Union in Albany, New York before joining USA TODAY as a War Correspondent in 2002.

At USA TODAY, Jim has made more than 20 trips to Iraq and Afghanistan for coverage. He's also covered wars in Libya, Israel, Haiti and Central America. He's served as Deputy World Editor, managing USA TODAY's Iraq and Middle East coverage, and during major combat operations, supervising six embedded reporters. Additionally, he's made frequent appearances on CNN, Fox and other cable news networks discussing his experiences and expertise.

In 2010, Jim published *A Chance in Hell: The Men who Triumphed over Iraq's Deadliest City and Turned the Tide of War*, which covers Colonel Sean MacFarland's 2006 mission to pacify Ramadi. Of the book, *Leatherneck Magazine* says, "Michaels is a superb storyteller and, as both a former Marine infantry officer and USA TODAY's military editor, has the skills to present a story that is both accurate and readable. And what a story it is."

It is with great respect that we present Jim Michaels with the Distinguished Achievement Citation for his service and impressive experience and knowledge within the field of war journalism.

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