

# Williams and NBC: No Valor, No Pride, and No Shame



Brian Williams has been the face of the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) and now he seems to be the face of shameless too. Williams has regaled his gullible Media colleagues for a decade or more about a brush with death in Iraq that never happened. The *Stars and Stripes*, not the *NY Times* or the *Washington Post*, busted Mr. Williams. According to the [chronology](#) revealed in the *Stars and Stripes*, the false tale of near death in combat was embellished over time, becoming more heroic with each telling to audiences like David Letterman and Alec Baldwin.

Blowing a fairytale past Deborah Turness, Baldwin, or Letterman is no surprise, but hockey fans are another matter. Seems that somewhere out in flyover country, some 3rd Infantry Division veterans saw Brian's fatal, and hopefully final, version of stolen valor – and dropped a dime to the newspaper of record for American GI's.

Williams was at the Ranger's game in New York burnishing his "I support the troops" facade by posing with a disabled veteran and spinning another "combat" yarn about himself at the same time. The William's ego spot at Madison Square Garden was never about the sacrifices of real veterans.

The cameo was about hubris, worse still, stolen valor. Real veterans, real heroes, and real combat casualties languish in the parking lots of an inept Veterans Administration, while poseurs like Brian Williams try to bask in reflected glory. The charade continued for more than a decade, abetted by the silence of network colleagues. Williams was not alone on that trip to Afghanistan. Who checks the fact checker?

NBC and Williams were exposed by ordinary soldiers in a GI newspaper. Such duplicity says everything about federal standards and the national Press today. Williams was not outed by the White House. A President that consistently apologizes for terror culture is unlikely to criticize an ally like NBC. Williams was not outed by other Media regulars like network crew members and colleagues at Public Television, ABC, or CBS. Williams was not exposed by the brass at the Department of Defense either, the institution with the true record of aircraft movements and combat incidents. Williams was outed by the very grunts he pretends to support. In short, the most popular network anchor in America was exposed by his antithesis – real soldiers telling the truth.

According to eyewitnesses, Williams and his entourage did not arrive at the scene of the Rocket Propelled Grenade (RPG) assault until an hour after the shooting stopped. Williams apparently seized an opportunity to exploit their grace under fire. The helicopters and troops involved were then stranded for two days by a sandstorm. The worst of William's experience was a weather delay, an event more common in Chicago than Iraq. Chicago might be more dangerous too.

Hilary Clinton spun a similar "combat" fiction in Bosnia when her husband was dismantling Yugoslavia. Yet, with professional politicians, nobody expects the truth. A better comparison would be with Dan Rather, another celebrity anchor formerly over at CBS. Recall that Rather used forged documents to try to discredit George Bush's Air Guard service. Like Williams, Rather tried to spin his fraud with "the fog of memory" excuse too. Rather got fired for his stunt. Williams is still on the NBC pay role.

No surprise then that the first Media standard bearer to come to the [defense](#) of Brian Williams was "Gunga" Dan Rather. What's to defend? A lie?



## Rather in Afghanistan

Becoming the news is a fatal flaw for any objective journalist. Brian Williams is now the news – and a serial liar to boot. His integrity is forfeit. Just as any CBS coverage of the military is suspect, NBC now labors under the same cloud. If you are supposed to be in the fact finding business, credibility is the only currency. NBC and Brian Williams are now bankrupt.

Rather and Williams at the top of their networks is a symptom of more fundamental Media problems: the conflation of news and entertainment, *sub rosa* anti-military sentiment, and political pandering.

Clearly, Williams like so many of his colleagues are more Kardashian than journalist, professional celebrities. Williams is the most popular of all news anchors, a one man advertising revenue rainmaker.

Let's not kid ourselves about poseurs like Rather and Williams, their spin on things military is patronizing, revealing an underlying contempt for the real sacrifices made by soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen.

Media coverage of war itself is now a fraud. The President, Secretary of State, and Secretary of Defense will not name the enemy nor call the ideological struggle with Islam and the battles with Islamists a war. Good men and women are maimed and killed in wars where generals and politicians have [no intention](#) of winning. Death without strategy or purpose is the dirty little secret yet to be covered by what critics like Limbaugh rightly calls a "drive-by" Media, a pandering Press corps.

Some of the worst today are the political spinners on Public Radio and Television, taxpayer funded propagandists. The *News Hour* on [6 February](#) featured Mark Shields and Paul Gigot commentary on President Obama's appearance before the National

Prayer Breakfast. On that occasion, Obama lectured Christian and Jews about the Crusades, Inquisition, and the European slave trade. More White House excuses just after ISIS beheaded two more journalists followed by the incineration of a live Jordanian pilot with a video feed to the internet.

Both Shields and Gigot endorsed the President's [message](#). Never mind that all three histories cited are irrelevant to the Islam problem and associated terror. Never mind that these very same justifications are used as propaganda by *al Qaeda* and [ISIS](#). And never mind that Obama, Shields, and Gigot forgot to mention that today's slave trade is almost exclusively a joint black-African/Muslim enterprise (see *Boko Haram* for just one example).

Journalism is literally losing its head. On a global scale, Islamists decapitate the very Media cowards who apologize for Muslim behavior. At the same time, too many reporters at home are willing to commit professional perjury, frequently in the name of Islam. Withal, the message is clear. Neither side can trust journalists these days.

Williams has taken himself off the air for a few days while NBC does some internal navel gazing. The longer the network dithers, the worse this soap opera becomes. Williams has created his personal Katrina. Now he needs to fall on his sword, behave like a man. Surely Public Television has a slot for Williams.

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If Ash Carter and Martin Dempsey at DOD want to do something serious about [stolen valor](#), they might start by revoking the military Press credentials of NBC and Brian Williams. Media jock sniffers don't deserve a free ride on any military conveyance or protection in war zones at taxpayer expense. If sanctions can be imposed on Russia, Iran, and Cuba; surely, sanctions against a dishonest journalist and a network that

defends frauds is not too much to ask. American warriors and veterans deserve to be covered by men like [Ernie Pyle](#), not by liars and milksops like Dan Rather at CBS and Brian Williams at NBC.

“I became a journalist because I didn’t want to rely on newspapers for information. “

– Chris Hitchens

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[This morning I originally wrote that Paul Gigot appeared with Mark Shields on the 6 February edition of *Newshour*. *Mr. Gigot was not part of that broadcast, Shields’ counterpoint on this occasion was David Brooks. My sincere apologies to Mr. Gigot for taking his name in vain in what was clearly an ironic transposition, a case of a pot calling the kettle black. To my knowledge, Mr. Gigot had no part in the apologetics for Mr. Obama’s Prayer Breakfast remarks.*]