

Gwen Sommers Redwine



Gwen Sommers Redwine was born and raised in Valdosta, Georgia. Her thirst for journalism started at the age of 12, when she enjoyed watching news anchors Chet Huntley and David Brinkley. She was 14 years old when she accepted her first newspaper job with the Southwest Georgia Enterprise in her home town. Her first on-air radio experience was with WVLD, she wrote for the Valdosta Daily Times and landed news reporter roles with WAOK and Turner Broadcasting System in Atlanta. In 1981 she earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in theater, radio, and television from Valdosta State College.

Gwen's career in Journalism began during the Jim Crow Era of American History. As a young black divorced woman and mother of two sons, she broke racial barriers in radio, TV and print journalism in the late 1960s and barriers for women in journalism, a male-dominated field during that time. "It was a male domain," Redwine said. "If you look at all the old movies about newsrooms, they were filled with white men smoking cigarettes...it was an all-male environment."

Shedding her Southern accent and polishing her "look" Gwen was an on-air live news anchor for WTBS and both CNNs. She is an original CNN news anchor. Highlights of her colorful career in TV include her unprecedented anchoring at the desk for the breaking of the 1983 Beirut Barracks Bombing Story, the first major loss of American service members since the Vietnam War. CNN and Gwen scooped everyone! She is also noted for securing a rare interview with a proud but controversial United States Senator Herman Talmadge right before his

final failed re-election bid to the United States Senate. She produced and WTBS published two one-hour documentaries on black heritage subject matter; one of which drew a sizable Arbitron rating. Her stories about her journey from Valdosta, Georgia to Atlanta and witnessing the genius of Ted Turner, are bittersweet.