



Chiaroscuro

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Frontpage picture

Rembrandt, *Philosopher in Meditation*.

Cardinals

Dallayce Bright



Ancient Sparta and King Leonidas

Robert Brizel



Gerard Butler as King Leonidas (Photos Courtesy of Warner Brothers)

In 480 B.C., King Leonidas of ancient Sparta became famous for leading the united armed forces of Greeks against the invading Persians at the Thermopylae (Hot Gates) pass. A traitor showed Persians a path through the mountains enabling them to outflank and trap the Greeks. King Leonidas released most of his allied forces at this point, he and

300 Spartan soldiers and 700 Thespian soldiers fought on and died in a bloody slaughter.



The new movie 300 is based on the novel by Frank Miller and brings the ancient story of the final days of King Leonidas to life, and how the king's sacrifice for his people united the Greeks against invading Persian forces. The movie features virtual backgrounds to accurate historic detail, and dramatic battle scenes painstakingly created to match the era.



King Leonidas (Gerard Butler) Faces King Xerxes (Rodrigo Santoro) Before Their Epic Battle

The Spartan *Gerousia* (Congress) did not want war. The decision was inevitable, though.

Persian King Xerxes wanted submission and conquest. The Battle of Platea in 479 B.C. was to prove the end of the Persian invasion. Alexander the Great would later conquer Persia in 4th century B.C. The movie '300' shines as great historical entertainment.



Ancient Sparta's Location on Map is at Lower Left, Part of Peloponnesus

'300' Movie Trailer Online is at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v_CllzLewmSc

Another Movie Trailer is at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wDiUG52ZyHQ>

Spartan Battle at http://news.yahoo.com/i/721;_ylt=AtS6eM8eEj0WiqlNiM.rFQUewgF

Warning: Movie Battle Scenes Contain Graphic War Images. View Discretion Advised.

Publicity Photographs Courtesy Warner Brothers, Legendary Pictures and Virtual Studios

The Model

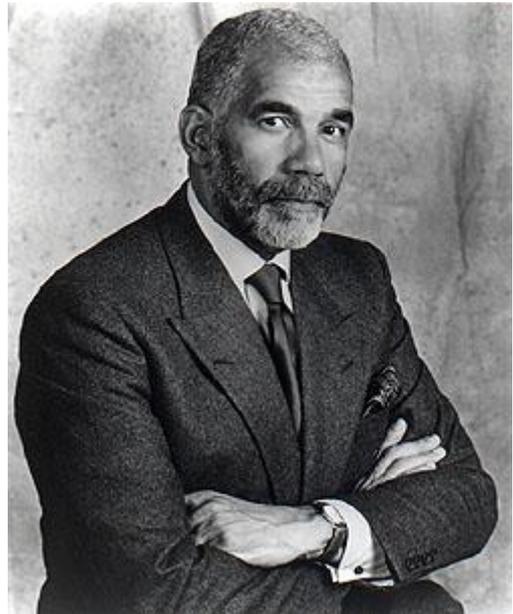
Dallayce Bright



The Life and Times of Ed Bradley-My View

Robert Brizel

Intelligent and smooth in news presentation, he followed in the footsteps of the late news anchor Max Robinson, Ed Bradley was for sure the world's best known black journalist. Both in the field, as a reporter and as a member of the CBS 60 Minutes News Team, Ed Bradley distinguished himself as the very best. Even near the end of his life, Mr. Bradley pursued two television investigations with zeal, vigor, and enthusiasm, turning heads in what turned out to be the best work in his CBS television journalism career in the pursue of truth, justice, and public information. Ed Bradley died in November 2006 at the age of 65 from leukemia.



Ed Bradley won 19 Emmy awards during his career, and culminated his 25 years as a member of the 60 Minutes News Team with reporting on the 50 year old racial murder of Emmett Till, and an investigation of the facts surrounding the Duke rape case which pointed to innocence for all accused and official misconduct. He was later proven absolutely correct.

A white House correspondent, a correspondent who covered election campaigns for 20 years including election night, and the anchor of the CBS Sunday night news-quite simply put-Ed Bradley did it all. He was assigned to the Saigon bureau during the Vietnam War for three years, before getting sent to the Washington bureau. He later did stories everywhere from classified military installations to Cambodia to AIDS in Africa.

He began as a radio reporter in New York City and Philadelphia. After his career on television took off, Bradley won numerous awards, too many to mention. What I'll remember most about Bradley is his dominating presence at developing a story, and getting to the bottom of whatever truth needed to be both found and understood, from every possible angle, with every fact meticulously considered to the smallest detail. He always left it to viewers to consider his story and come to their own conclusions (rather than slanting the news-which many reporters do). He came across with class, style, and integrity-a unique mix. He never appeared to be black-only a journalist. He presented the sides of a story equally to the public, and expected to be treated as an equal in kind.

He was wounded in a mortar attack in Vietnam, and also wounded in Cambodia. He paid his dues in an Ernie Pyle sort of way on the battlefield-except Ed lived to tell his stories.

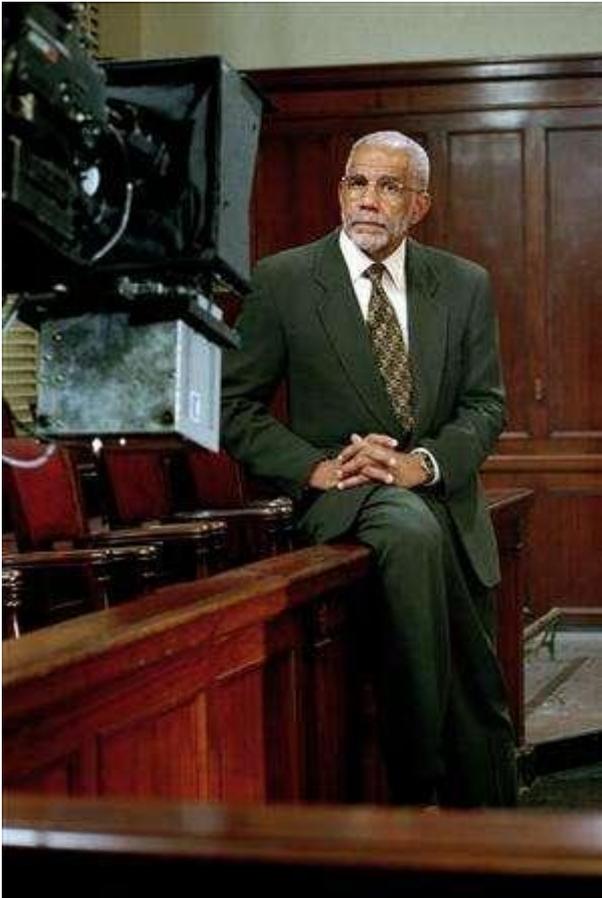
A devoted husband, and lifelong jazz and sports fan, Ed's interests were very diverse.

He knew what he liked, and he knew how to tell a story. Overall, Ed Bradley was a fine role model for all seasons. Like Max Robinson, he died young for his ambition.

Ed Bradley was a pioneer investigative reporter whose work was unparalleled both in ratings and in

depth analysis of his investigations. He achieved big in the field of news reporting. Ed's true abilities may never be fully appreciated by the general public he reported to. I hope at some point they will take the bulk of Ed's interview work and news reporting for CBS television and 60 minutes, and put them for sale on DVDs for public reexamination and reconsideration. For in Ed Bradley's universe, a story reported on still remains as timeless as the day he presented it in the studio, on the road, and in the field.

I will always remember Ed for his work in the field in Vietnam, for Ed's accurate ability to convey the ongoing situation of a war the United States and its troops could not win.



4 pages of video clips featuring Ed Bradley can be viewed without charge on the internet at Youtube by going to www.youtube.com/results?search_query=Ed+Bradley and I hope the reader has a few minutes to go online and view them to better understand Ed's life.

Had Ed Bradley lived another year or two, I have no doubts he would have headed into the war zones of Iraq, and Afghanistan, interviewing Al-Qaida, Shiites, Sunnis, and the Taliban, and troops from various countries. Then I think he would have headed to Iran to interview the Iranian President, and then on to Israel and Palestine to interview Fatah and Hamas in the midst of their current political civil war. These unbiased stories would have required careful consideration and background research before Ed could begin to pursue them. Ed was uniquely qualified for the task and was uniquely capable of rising to these challenges. He had no equals or successors in the media and the black community.

The Life and Times of Ed Bradley (1941-2006) Bibliography

Photos courtesy CBS, Reuters, and Speakers Worldwide. www.youtube.com video clips.

Online obituaries and biographies on Ed Bradley were consulted to verify factual data.

Black Lady

Paul Landuyt



A view through the door

Martijn Tromm

The door is shut
But the key
Is just a turning leaf

The door swings wide
Light shines through
The sight a shining view

Again the door
Shuts, the view Is lost
but the fleeting time remains

Exposed

Martijn Tromm

A monster in me
burns my skin
I must free
the dragon within

it makes me choke
with furious dread
fire and smoke,
filling my head

DAMN, YOU FOOL,
FOR I'M THE TORCH
AND BY MY RULE
YOU WILL SCORCH
TO DEATH I'LL RIDE
YOU CROSSED MY PATH
YOU CANNOT HIDE
FOR MY WRATH

*The dragon rose and fled
silence came from the wall
small remained on the bed
a naked shivering soul*

A thousand eyes
laid me bare
for who am I
should you care?
to pieces I was thrown
smaller than mice
in spirit's earth grown
to monstrous size

But no one saw
this story's tail,
a growing claw
tooth and nail.