

Obit

GLORIA EMERSON
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Gloria Emerson, an award winning journalist and author who wrote about the war in Vietnam and the Palestinians in Gaza, died at her home in Manhattan at the age of 74. She had been suffering from Parkinson's disease, said ~~Dick Hughes, a friend from their years in wartime Saigon.~~ **her physician, KAREN BRUDNEY.**

A former foreign correspondent for the New York Times, based in Paris and in London, Ms. Emerson requested that she be sent to Vietnam because she had been in that country in 1956 and wanted to go back to write about the Vietnamese people and the immense unhappy changes in their lives, not a subject widely covered by the huge press corps who were preoccupied with covering the military story. In Paris Ms. Emerson had frequently met with a group of Vietnamese political exiles for dinner and became aware of their conflicts and different loyalties. She had never been to Europe when she went to Saigon for the first time and afterwards often sought solace in Vietnamese restaurants in Paris over countless bowls of noodle soup.

Her dispatches from Vietnam won a George Polk Award for excellence in foreign reporting and, later, a Matrix Award from New York Women in Communications. Her non-fiction book on the war, Winners & Losers, (Random House 1977) won a National Book Award in 1978 but she described it as "too huge and somewhat messy." Its subject was the effects of the conflict on some Americans, or "an absence of the effect," as she once said.

Although reviews of her book were mixed, it was praised by Graham Greene in his book Getting to Know the General, as "admirable" and he quoted from her description of the US Ambassador to Vietnam, Ellsworth Bunker.

Her other books were Some American Men and Gaza, A Year in the Intifada which won, in 1991, a James Aronson Award for social justice journalism, a prize in honor of the distinguished professor at Hunter College in New York. The book provoked hostility among friends and others felt it was anti-Israel but Ms Emerson insisted this was not the reason for writing it. She hoped to provide a primer for those

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who felt the situation in the Middle East was too complicated or too controversial to understand. When in 1989 she lived in Gaza, after the first intifada, there were no Palestinian suicide bombers but she felt the increasing desperation and hopelessness and exhaustion of the people would lead to such murderous acts.

Her first novel, Loving Graham Greene, (Random House 2003) won critical acclaim and was praised by William Boyd in the New York Times Book Review as "beguiling and memorable," He called the novel "a funny, moving, and strangely profound novel,"

Ms. Emerson did not attend college and held no degrees but was three times the Ferris Professor of Journalism for the Council of Humanities at Princeton University in the 1980's. There are no immediate survivors.