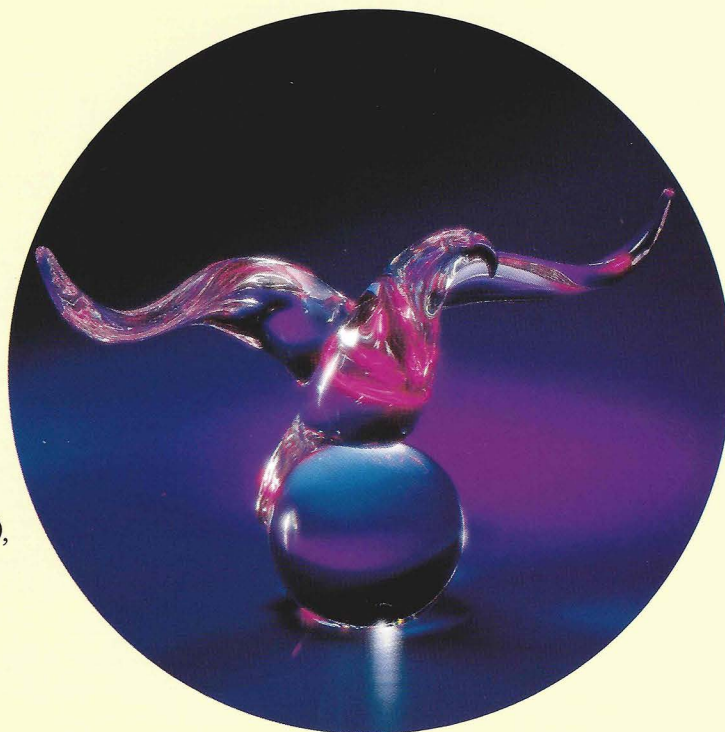
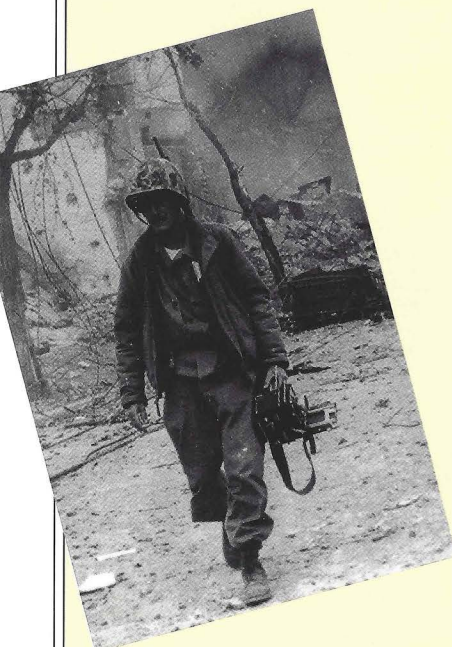


# Congratulations Max Desfor!

## WINNER OF THE 1994 KODAK/WHITE HOUSE NEWS PHOTOGRAPHERS' ASSOCIATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Right: Each year, a member of the White House News Photographers' Association is recognized for outstanding service to the organization and achievement in the field of photojournalism with this Kodak/White House News Photographers' Association Achievement Award. The American eagle is an apt symbol for the strength of character and leadership possessed by award recipients. Several dedicated photojournalists have been honored with this polished Steuben crystal, including Paul M. Lyons (1990), Bernie Boston (1991), George Tames (1992), and Henry Burroughs (1993).



Above: Desfor in Seoul during UN's 1950 effort to recapture the city.

In the early '40s, when newcomer Max Desfor worked as a part-time editor for AP's Washington bureau, his boss told him, "Frankly Max, I don't think you'll go far as a news photographer," and suggested he become a full-time editor. Fortunately, Desfor didn't take the advice. Several years and a lot of hard work later, he proved to the world what he had long known in his heart—he had the stuff of a great photojournalist. In 1951, Desfor's photograph of Koreans struggling to cross a bombed-out bridge with the Communist army in close pursuit won

the Pulitzer Prize for news photography.

It was a long road from photography enthusiast to world class photojournalist. In 1933, with help from his brother Irving, Desfor got his foot in the door at the Associated Press in New York as a messenger and lab assistant. He bought a used camera with his savings, and gave himself practice assignments. He often stayed late at the office, hoping to be sent out when none of the staff photographers were on duty. Eventually his dedication paid off, and in 1938, he joined the full-time photography staff.

His first beat was a one-man office in Baltimore. From there he moved to Washington, where he also worked as a photo editor. Then in 1945, it was off to the Pacific to cover the Japanese surrender and war crimes trials. Next, he spent three years in India, documenting the strife between Hindus and Moslems and the independence movement. After a year in Rome, he was assigned to the Korean Conflict. And in 1968, he became AP's Photo Editor for South East Asia covering the Vietnam war and President Nixon's 1976 visit to China. Later, he became the chief of AP's World Wide Photo division—the first *photographer* to achieve an executive rank at AP.

In 1978, Desfor left AP and moved to *U.S. News & World Report* as a photo editor, becoming photo director one year later. During his five years with the magazine, he was named Editor of the Year by the National Press Photographers' Association. And last year, he received the President's Award from the White House News Photographers' Association.

Although retired, Desfor is by no means out of the "loupe." A member of WHNPA since 1939, he attends general membership meetings whenever possible and serves on the Still Division Contest Committee. For the past eight years, Desfor has