

# Congratulations

## Charles Tasnadi



Clockwise: Tasnadi near the Korean War Memorial, Washington, D.C. Photo © Associated Press/Fred Sweets, 1996. President Johnson proudly displays scar after gall bladder surgery; Injured Cubans return from invasion of Grenada. Photos © Associated Press/Charles Tasnadi, 1996.

In 1951, Charlie Tasnadi and his sweetheart Maria fled Communist Hungary through treacherous minefields, barbed wire, and heavy snow. "That memory," he says, "really helped me put a better perspective on deadline pressures."

Chivalry, professionalism, and selfless dedication have been Tasnadi's hallmarks ever since—from his first newspaper assignments in Caracas, Venezuela, to his work as a stringer for *Time-Life*, and through his notable, 32-year career with the Associated Press.

The epitome of a photojournalist and a gentleman, he has documented seven White House administrations, and traveled to Cuba more than 40 times, gaining extraordinary access to Castro and other Cuban officials.

As for recognition he has received, Tasnadi says, "Coming from Hungary I have often wondered what all these honors are about. People honor me just by allowing me to do my work." This couldn't have been truer than it was in 1989 when Tasnadi returned to Hungary for the first time after 38 years with President Bush on Air Force One. Once they landed, he hid his tears behind his camera, determined to get good pictures of the President.

In January of 1996, while working his last press conference before his retirement, he was truly honored again when President Clinton started a round

of applause, thanking him for his great pictures and years of exemplary service.

Kodak's Professional and Printing Imaging and the White House News Photographers' Association are proud to honor Charles Tasnadi once more with the 1996 Kodak/WHNPA Achievement Award.

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