



WHNPA TRIBUTE

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Steve Affens

For 30 years, Steve Affens has been a TV photojournalist in Washington for WJLA.

An award-winning cameraman, Steve is a longtime member of the executive board of the White House News Photographers' Association. He is a dedicated proponent of free speech and ethics in journalism. For his years of outstanding service to the WHNPA, Steve is the recipient of the WHNPA Lifetime Achievement Award.

Steve's interest in broadcasting was an outgrowth of his hobbies: photography, ham radio and travel. In 1967 he obtained an FCC first-class radio license and soon joined WJLA-TV as a broadcast engineer. His original involvement was in electronic work such as quad tape, studio audio, studio camera, set lighting and technical directing. In 1970, Steve made a commitment to photojournalism. At that time, he started with 16mm cinematography and in 1978, he transitioned to videotape.

He has won Emmys throughout the '80s and '90s for photography and field production work, but he is most remembered for his string of five consecutive Cameraman of the Year awards given by the

White House News Photographers' Association. Steve's string ran from 1985 to 1989. In 1990, Steve was honored by the Washington Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences with the Ted Yates Award, and in 1994 NATAS inducted Steve into the Silver Circle.

Steve has been a strong proponent of education, ethics and free speech issues. He has been a frequent speaker on the national press photographer circuit, has been a judge in national television contests and has spoken to government agencies. One of Steve's personal prides is the WHNPA High School Seminar, which is produced in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institution every year. Steve has been a speaker six times and has headed the event twice. Steve was also the guiding force in developing a comprehensive code of ethics for the WHNPA; that code now has a prominent place in the bylaws of the association.

Steve has served for 15 years as an elected member of the executive boards of both the White House News Photographers' Association and the Washington chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. He has just finished two years as vice president of the WHNPA, and he has led the association's movement into the Internet age, helping launch www.whnpa.org.

For these accomplishments, we are proud to have Steve Affens as a winner of the WHNPA Lifetime Achievement Award.