



2000 WHNPA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Wallace McNamee

While Wallace William McNamee attended college at George Washington University, he also worked as a copy boy at *The Washington Post* with an eye toward becoming a sports writer. During his early tenure at the Post a funny thing happened — McNamee started hanging around the photo department. Before long sports writing didn't seem like such a hot idea.

Soon thereafter, he enlisted in the Marine Corps to train at the Combat Photography School, where he learned the fundamentals of his craft alongside fellow student and lifelong friend Eddie Adams. After tours of Japan and Korea, McNamee returned to *The Washington Post* in 1956. In his first year as a staff photographer he was awarded as White House News Photographer of the Year — a title he would win three more times.

McNamee worked at *The Washington Post* for 13 years, covering many of the nation's leading stories including the role of the United States in Vietnam, the civil rights movement, the Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson administrations, and of course, the Washington Redskins.

In 1969 he accepted a position at *Newsweek* magazine and went on to produce more than 100 covers. His career at the magazine encompassed the Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush and Clinton administrations. During this time, he won numerous awards from the WHNPA, the World Press Association and the NPPA. Besides the presidents, McNamee also covered the Olympics, Willie Nelson (a personal favorite), the evolving story of the return of Vietnam veterans and the Redskins.

When asked for a brief description of McNamee, Bob Daugherty of the Associated Press said: "Who is Wally? One of the most humble, unassuming, talented and most professional individual I've ever worked alongside. His images are usually quite simple — simply damn good. His secret is his keen eye of course, but beyond that, his love of people. He is a collector of characters."

For these accomplishments, we are proud to present Wallace McNamee with the 2000 WHNPA Lifetime Achievement Award.

