



RON EDMONDS

George Fridrich

George Fridrich has earned distinction as an outstanding, award-winning TV photojournalist in the Washington area, where he has worked for more than 30 years.

His contributions to journalism are marked by his reserved style, standing back to allow the story to unfold in front of his camera. This signature approach has produced riveting stories that have kept their staying power over time.

Fridrich began his career in television in 1964, working for WTOP-TV as a vacation relief engineer. Fridrich's first encounter with a television camera came when he was told to stand behind a studio camera on the "Ranger Hal" show and was told on the spot how to use it. Fridrich said of the experience, "I was like a duck to water."

In 1965, Fridrich joined NBC as a studio/field engineer. While working as a studio technician, he did field work and sports photography on the side, gaining experience running a portable camera on the sidelines. The start of his career as a television news photojournalist began in 1972 when NBC decided to use the portable camera — once reserved solely for sports — for news coverage. Fridrich, who was accustomed to using the camera, was asked to become a news shooter. He captured historic events on tape,

including Sara Jane Moore's attempt to assassinate President Gerald Ford in 1975. He worked at NBC until November 2001, covering news.

Fridrich and son George "Ned" Fridrich now run a freelance company, Brighter Images Productions LLC.

Throughout his career, Fridrich's priority on an assignment was to keep at a distance from his subject, because, he explained: "When I showed up, they'd change. That wasn't real. We're there to tell the truth."

Fridrich has received a number of White House News Photographers' Association awards, including four Cameraperson of the Year awards (1980, 1982, 1983, 1984). In addition to winning numerous National Press Photographers Association awards, he has won two Emmy Awards, in 1982 and 1983.

Of all his stories, Fridrich considers his best work to be 1978's "Isis," a story where time-lapse photography shows the creation of a piece of sculpture over time. Sculptor Mark diSuvero constructed a ship out of scrap iron, and Fridrich paired it with the song "The Fury."

"I had a chance to do something that I thought was really creative. It will always have a first in my heart." For Fridrich, the true reward of his career comes in creating this kind of story: "... the piece that grabs you emotionally and stays with you."

We are proud to honor George Fridrich with the WHNPA Lifetime Achievement Award.