



# Sheldon Fielman

## *2004 Lifetime Achievement Award*

Sheldon “Shelly” Fielman epitomizes “the eyes of history,” the WHNPA motto. Shelly has been an eyewitness to major events of the last 40 years, and his TV viewers were the beneficiaries.

For example, Day One of his 40-year career with NBC began on a day that changed the world — Nov. 22, 1963, when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas. Three days later, Fielman found himself in the Dallas Police Department garage when nightclub owner Jack Ruby shot to death assassination suspect Lee Harvey Oswald.

Nine presidents have rounded out Shelly’s career. He traveled with them as candidates and as presidents, and some of the candidates played a major part in Shelly’s life.

Shelly often found himself on dangerous assignments. That first day on the job when the president was slain set the tone for his career. He was outside the Washington Hilton when John Hinckley attempted to assassinate President Ronald Reagan. For his work that day, Shelly won a national and a local Emmy as well as a first place in the White House News Photographers’ Association contest.

While political assignments were a large part of Shelly’s career, he also covered the major domestic stories of the day — civil rights marches, war protests, ban-the-bomb rallies and free



*Photo by Larry Downing*

Puerto Rico demonstrations.

Shelly covered the race riots in Detroit, Newark and Washington, and he was in the South to cover the civil rights demonstrations, sit-ins and marches with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. During the Watergate era Shelly was a fixture outside the U.S. District Court.

The assignments did not stop at the U.S. border. Shelly covered the war in Vietnam and the first Gulf War. During that Gulf War, while broadcasting from the roof of his hotel in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, Shelly saw a Scud missile attack nearby. When most people went inside for cover, Shelly and his team stayed on

the roof to bring the viewers the news.

Shelly has been an active member of the WHNPA, working a dozen years as the television representative to the Executive Board. While many of his colleagues have teased him about his hearing, his cigars and his early spring days wearing no socks, we can all say that Shelly is a true professional.

Shelly has been a part of thousands of stories in his career. Because he has been an ever-present witness to history, we are proud to award Sheldon “Shelly” Fielman with the 2004 White House News Photographers’ Association Lifetime Achievement Award.

He has earned it!