



PHOTO BY JEFF MACMILLAN



Chick Harrity

2005 Lifetime Achievement Award

Chick Harrity first picked up a camera at the urging of an eighth-grade science teacher in Reading, Pa. His instant love for photography and a natural curiosity launched him on a lifelong journey documenting the world around him.

Harrity began his journalism career in 1956 at his hometown newspaper, the *Reading Times*. He spent 16 years at The Associated Press, 13 of them in the Washington bureau, and later became chief photographer at *U.S. News & World Report* where, over 20 years, he covered a wide range of assignments with grace and style. Harrity retired on April Fool's Day 2001 in a purposeful display of his trademark sense of humor.

"There are a lot of people out there digging ditches for a living," says Harrity, "and I got a chance to run around taking pictures of a group of pretty interesting people. I was getting to witness history. It was better than working for a living."

As a member of the White House press corps for

33 years, Harrity covered seven presidents, from Lyndon B. Johnson to Bill Clinton. He photographed civil strife in the 1960s, the withdrawal of American troops at the end of the Vietnam War, and he was at the White House on Aug. 9, 1974, when Richard Nixon resigned the presidency. He covered 17 political conventions from 1968 to 2000.

Harrity, whose first camera was a Baby Brownie, watched the industry's tools change over the years. "My timing was interesting. In my era I've watched TV go from film to ENG and stills go from film to digital. It was about improving the tools we work with."

Harrity is the winner of numerous honors including the Leica Medal of Excellence for Photojournalism and the White House News Photographers' Association Photographer of the Year.

For these accomplishments, we are proud to have Chick Harrity as the winner of the WHNPA Lifetime Achievement Award.