



Bruce MacDonell Memorial Page

1938-1999

Award winning veteran broadcast newsman Bruce MacDonell, who was based in Tokyo for nearly 20 years, died after a brief illness in Burbank, California on March 19, 1999.

Bruce, a former president of the [Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan](#), moved to Tokyo from Hong Kong when he relocated NBC's Asia main news bureau to Japan. He was in charge of eight NBC bureaus stretching from Delhi to Seoul.

In 1986, Bruce founded Globe Net Productions, a news and documentary production house in Japan which serves as a news bureau for international broadcasters and documentary producers.

At Globe Net, he produced hundreds of segments for such programs as "[The MacNeil/Lehrer News Hour](#)", "The Christian Science Monitor Report", "Entertainment Tonight", and numerous [BBC](#) productions.

Bruce also created and produced the acclaimed "Asia Now" weekly magazine-documentary program on [NHK](#) and [PBS](#) in the United States in the early 1990s.

He began his career in Detroit and won a [National Sigma Delta Chi award](#) for coverage of the [Robert Kennedy assassination](#). Bruce was also awarded

four Emmys, the Ohio State Journalism Award, The New York Film and Television Festival Award and the Headliners Award.

His first writing job was with [CKLW Radio](#) and TV in Windsor, Ontario. Later he joined WXYZ-TV in Detroit writing everything from comedy patter for Soupy Sales to award winning documentaries.

In 1959, MacDonell began a five year odyssey as head writer for CBS's "International Showtime" and fell in love with Asia to which he returned numerous times. In 1964, he joined Westinghouse and served as news director at [WINS Radio](#) in New York, [KFWB Radio](#) in Los Angeles and [KDKA-TV](#) in Pittsburgh.

In 1972, Bruce moved to NBC News as Executive News Director in Los Angeles, then in 1974 transferred to Washington D.C. as News Director at [WRC-TV](#).

"Bruce was the best boss I ever had when it came to journalistic integrity. He never wavered, even in the face of strong pressure," said [Steven Herman](#), Chairman of [Foreign Press in Japan](#) and director for [Discovery Channel](#) in Tokyo, who worked under MacDonell on the "Asia Now" television program.

MacDonell leaves a wife, Mary Ann Maskery (who is also a veteran broadcaster and former FCCJ President), five children, nine grandchildren and two sisters.

Donations in his memory may be made to the [FCCJ's Scholarship Fund](#).
