



## FRED SWEETS

Fred Sweets' career in journalism began at The St. Louis American, his father's black weekly, where he learned every job in the newspaper business from advertising and promotions on the business side to writing stories and making photos on the other side of the firewall.

From there, he went to work during college (University of Missouri-St. Louis) as a reporting intern for United Press International (UPI) before joining the St. Louis Post-Dispatch in 1968 as its first Black staff photographer.

After a decade at the Post-Dispatch, he joined The Washington Post where he was a photographer and editor for 13 years. His assignments included coverage of Presidents Carter, Reagan and George H.W. Bush, as well as the 1992 Los Angeles riots, daily news, features and sports.

After covering the riots sparked by the verdicts in the Rodney King trial, Sweets joined the Los Angeles Times as a senior photo editor. He served on the committee that selected Clarence Williams III for METPRO, a training program for aspiring minority journalists. While on staff at the Los Angeles Times, Williams won a Pulitzer in 1995 and was honored as NABJ's Journalist of the Year in 1998.

In 1995, Sweets joined The Associated Press (AP) as chief of the Washington, DC photo department, the news cooperative's largest photo operation. He directed coverage of the disputed 2000 presidential election, the case of Elian Gonzalez and the impeachment of President Bill Clinton. In 1999, Sweets accepted the Pulitzer Prize on behalf of the AP photo staff for coverage of the Clinton impeachment.

Sweets' lifelong commitment to newsroom diversity began when he walked in the door of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch in 1968 as the first photojournalist of color on a staff of more than a dozen. He was the first Black on the executive committee of the St. Louis Newspaper Guild.

At AP, Sweets was director of "Diverse Visions," a weeklong, multicultural training program for aspiring photojournalists. Participants competed for AP internships and were placed in bureaus around the U.S. In Washington, Sweets helped form "Shooting Back", a program for homeless

children where the participants were given cameras and mentored by professional photographers as they documented their environment.

Throughout his career, Sweets maintained his commitment to diversity by attending conventions for minority journalists such as the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, Asian American Journalists Association, Native American Journalists Association and the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association. He continues to serve as the auctioneer for the annual sale of photographs and artwork from around the world by NABJ and its Visual Task Force. The proceeds, totaling more than \$300,000, continues to fund NABJ scholarships.

Sweets also taught for three summers at the American Indian Journalism Institute on the campus of the University of South Dakota at Vermillion, and his diversity efforts also touched NAHJ, AAJA and NLGJA.

Sweets currently divides his time between Miami and St. Louis, where he is a contributing editor at the St. Louis American.