



## **Mike Tharp**

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### **Education**

B.A. English literature (summa cum laude) Benedictine College, KS  
Graduate study, University of Wales, Rotary Foundation Fellowship  
University of Notre Dame Law School (one semester before military induction)  
University of Kansas Graduate School of Journalism (30 units of 4.00 work)  
M.A., Communications, CSU Fullerton

### **Military**

U.S. Army 1969-70; 13 months in Vietnam; Bronze Star; honorable discharge

### **Work**

Adjunct instructor, Journalism, Tarrant County College  
Newsletter editor, American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology (current)  
Freelance contributor, AARP Magazine, AARP Bulletin and News Photographer (current)  
Substitute teacher, Plano Independent School District (current)  
Instructor, Merritt Writing Program, University of California, Merced, CA  
Executive Editor, Merced (CA) Sun-Star  
Local News Editor, Merced (CA) Sun-Star  
Writing coach, College of Communications, CSU Fullerton  
Instructor, College of Communications, CSU Fullerton  
Freelance contributing writer, People Magazine  
Independent contract writer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District  
West Coast correspondent, U.S. News & World Report  
Tokyo bureau chief, U.S. News & World Report  
Reporter, Wall Street Journal San Francisco bureau  
Tokyo bureau chief, Far Eastern Economic Review  
Tokyo correspondent, New York Times  
Tokyo bureau chief, the Wall Street Journal  
Reporter, Wall Street Journal Dallas bureau  
Environmental writer, Topeka Capital-Journal  
Writer, Hurricane Magazine, II Field Force Vietnam

### **Awards, etc**

Nominated for Pulitzer Prize with other Wall Street Journal reporters for series  
Nominated for National Magazine Award with other USN&WR reporters  
First place, Local News Writing, Inland Press Association  
Gruner Prize, Meritorious Public Service Journalism, CSU Fresno  
Kappa Tau Alpha journalism honor society  
CSUF College of Communications Top Scholar Award

Grand Marshal, Veterans Day Parade 2011, Merced, CA  
Former board of directors' member, Center for Investigative Reporting, Berkeley, CA  
Six years as assistant coach, boys' varsity basketball team, San Pedro High School, CA  
President, Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan  
Two-year member, NAIA national championship basketball team, Benedictine College  
Eagle Scout

### **Staff Awards**

Sun-Star won 19 first- or second-place awards in California Newspaper Publishers Association Contest during four years as executive editor  
Sun-Star won three first- or second-place awards in Inland Press Assn. contest  
Sun-Star won AP Managing Editors First Amendment Award  
First newspaper in California to partner with the then-new California Health Care Foundation Center for Health Reporting at the USC Annenberg School for a three-part series on the UC Merced medical school; later, more than 20 dailies signed up, and the Sun-Star did another series with the center, "Houses of Blues: the Extreme Stress of Merced's Foreclosure Epidemic."  
One of only two California dailies to receive two grants totaling six years for a full-time health care reporter from the California Endowment. The grants paid her entire salary, benefits and travel.  
A 2011 PowerPoint presentation to two dozen GateHouse Media newspaper editors and writers on the Sun- Star's "watchdog" reporting; GateHouse competes with McClatchy in some markets

### **Other Publications**

Principal contributor, "Triumph Without Victory: The Unreported History of the Persian Gulf War," U.S. News & World Report staff, 1991  
Caption writer for photojournalism book, "Sarajevo: A Portrait of the Siege," 1993  
Chapters in "Turn Back Before Baghdad: Original Front Line Dispatches." 1994  
Editor, "A Sense of Duty," by Quang Pham, Random House, 2005  
Chapter in "Korea Witness: 135 Years of War, Crisis and News in the Land of the Morning Calm," 2006  
Caption writer, "Shall We Dance?" photojournalism book by Brian Lanker, 2009  
Caption writer, "Rich Clarkson and Topeka Capital-Journal Photography," 2010  
Caption writer, "From the Heart: The Photographs of Brian Lanker," 2016

### **International Coverage**

Foreign correspondent based in Tokyo covering Northeast Asia 1976-84; 1987-90  
Member in 1979 of first group of American journalists to enter North Korea since 1953  
Pool reporter, Persian Gulf War  
Covered civil war in Somalia  
Covered war in Albania/Kosovo;  
Covered civil war in Bosnia  
Two six-week tours for McClatchy covering war in Iraq; embed in Kirkuk and Baghdad

### **Media Outreach**

Appearances on "Larry King Live," "Good Morning America," CNN, CNBC, Canadian Broadcasting Corp., NPR, Valley PBS and dozens of local and regional radio stations.  
Hundreds of speeches to service organizations (Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis, AARP), journalism societies (Investigative Reporters & Editors, Overseas Press Club, Asian American Journalists Association), professional groups (Japan America Society of Southern California, JAS of Northern

California, JAS Seattle, Women in International Trade, Hitachi Scholarship Forum, World Affairs Councils in a dozen cities); veterans groups (Memorial Day speaker, Atwater, CA VFW). Judge for national contests of student publications for Society of Professional Journalists; judge for Texas Bar Association Gavel Awards; judge for California Newspaper Publishers Association's annual contests.

**I've been in news and communications since I was a teenager, as a journalist, teacher and coach. Digital technology has increased the number and kinds of platforms that convey information. What hasn't changed is that content still rules and words and pictures convey ideas. Four of the most important words in the English language are: Tell me a story. I am a storyteller. Photographers are storytellers. My late friend Brian Lanker described photography as "writing with light." Telling stories the right ways helps us all better understand our own lives, other people and issues. Telling stories the right ways – in print, in visual imagery and with pixels--is more important today than it ever has been. I like excellent storytelling--and people who read and hear and watch those stories become enriched because they learn more about themselves and the world.**