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OBITUARIES

Bill Ryan, Retired TV Newsman

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Point Marion, Pa. — William Emmett (Bill) Ryan III, a former NBC newsman who was among the first on television to report the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, has died. He was 70.

Mr. Ryan worked for NBC and its New York City affiliate, WNBC-TV, for 26 years, covering the civil-rights movement, early space flights and local news. In the 1960s, Mr. Ryan anchored the station's local "Pressman-Ryan Report" with Gabe Pressman and the network's radio "News of the World."

He died Tuesday at his home south of Pittsburgh after a long illness, according to his son Marc Ryan.

When Kennedy was shot in Dallas, Mr. Ryan was the network's first anchor to go on the air, eventually breaking the news that Kennedy had died. He stayed with the story for most of the next three days as the network went to around-the-clock coverage.



AP File Photo

Ryan in 1967

During a papal visit to Yankee Stadium in the mid-60s, he told radio listeners, "And the cardinals are leaving the dugout."

Born in Brooklyn, he served with the Marine Corps during World War II and got his start in broadcasting as an announcer for Armed Forces Radio. After working for local radio stations, he joined NBC-TV as a writer for "Camel News Caravan," anchored by John Cameron Swayze, in 1951.

He also was press secretary to Sen. Jacob K. Javits (D-N.Y.) and was active in the American Federation of Radio and Television Artists. After he retired to western Pennsylvania, he did a public-affairs program for West Virginia Public Television.

He is survived by his widow, Kay; nine children and 14 grandchildren.

The funeral is scheduled for Saturday at St. Theresa's Roman Catholic Church, Morgantown, W. Va.