IN REMEMBRANCE OF BERNARD - “BERNIE” – KRISHER  
1931-2019

It is with regret that I announce to Club members the passing away of former regular member Bernard (“Bernie”) Krisher in hospital in Tokyo on March 5. He was 87.

According to his obituary in the Cambodia Daily on March 18, his death from heart failure was disclosed by his family following a private burial in New York.

Krisher was chairman of World Assistance for Cambodia, publisher of The Cambodia Daily and former Newsweek Tokyo bureau chief.

Beginning his career as a foreign correspondent in Japan, Krisher dedicated his last three decades to humanitarian work in Cambodia.

He was a member of the FCCJ for 39 years, from November 1962 until August 2001.

Born in Frankfurt, Germany, in 1931, he and his family fled Nazi Germany in 1937 as refugees, eventually reaching the U.S. in 1941 where they settled in New York.

Wishing from childhood to be a journalist, Krisher was drafted into the US army in 1953 and stationed for two years in Heidelberg, Germany, as a reporter for the European Stars and Stripes. He later joined the New York World-Telegram & Sun in 1955, first as a reporter, then assistant editor.

From 1961-62, he studied at Columbia University on a Ford Foundation fellowship in advanced international reporting, specializing in Japanese studies at the East Asian Institute.

In 1962, he left the World-Telegram & Sun and moved to Japan to join Newsweek as a reporter in the magazine’s Tokyo bureau and was later promoted to become Newsweek’s Tokyo bureau chief in 1967, a position he held for the next 13 years.

Krisher interviewed many notable personalities including all Japanese prime ministers and other politicians, business leaders and cultural figures. His most famous interview was a one-on-one exclusive print interview with Emperor Hirohito just before the emperor’s historic visit to the U.S. in 1975.

We offer our condolences to his wife, Akiko, and to his two children and two grandchildren.