

AP's Putzel to succeed Kurkjian as the Globe's Washington chief

Michael Putzel of the Associated Press has been named Washington bureau chief of The Boston Globe, effective Sept. 9, Globe Editor John S. Driscoll announced yesterday.

Putzel, 48, will oversee a staff of eight reporters in the bureau. He succeeds Stephen Kurkjian, who has been bureau chief for five years. Kurkjian will become news projects editor in Boston on Sept. 1, supervising and reporting special enterprise stories with emphasis on local, national and business topics.

In welcoming Putzel to the Globe staff, Driscoll said, "As a respected reporter and analyst in Washington and elsewhere, Putzel adds invaluable experience to this most important area of coverage."

Putzel's recent assignments with the AP have been as Washington-based diplomatic writer and Moscow bureau chief from 1987-1990.

He joined the AP in 1967 in Raleigh, N.C., where he covered the legislature, state government and



MICHAEL PUTZEL
"Invaluable experience"

politics. After a short term at the AP's Foreign Desk in New York, he was assigned to Vietnam in 1969 and covered the war for the next three years.

In 1972, he was assigned to Washington, where he reported on Watergate. He then joined a team of investigative reporters and, among other projects, worked on an award-winning eight-month probe into the fatal auto accident on Chappaquiddick Island involving Sen. Edward M. Kennedy.

Assigned to the White House in 1979, he spent the next six years covering the Carter and Reagan administrations and was named chief White House correspondent for the AP in 1984.

For his eyewitness coverage of the March 30, 1981, shooting of President Reagan, Putzel was cited by the Associated Press Managing Editors and in 1986 won a Merriman Smith Memorial Award for excellence in presidential reporting.

A native of the District of Columbia, Putzel is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Kurkjian, in addition to supervising the bureau's coverage since January 1986, has concentrated his reporting at the White House and Justice Department and on special projects.

"On top of almost 20 years of success on the Globe's investigative Spotlight Team," Driscoll said, "Kurkjian left quite a mark on Washington, breaking story after story."

A native of Boston and a graduate of Boston University and Suffolk University Law School, Kurkjian, 47, shared in the Spotlight Team's winning of two Pulitzer Prizes, in 1971 for a series on municipal corruption in Somerville, and in 1980 for a series on the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority.

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