

Richard Valeriani, Veteran NBC News Correspondent, Dies at 85

By Jaclyn Peiser

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Richard Valeriani, an NBC News correspondent who was a familiar presence on television for more than three decades, covering events like the civil rights movement, John F. Kennedy's assassination and Henry A. Kissinger's globe-trotting diplomatic missions, died on Monday at his home in Manhattan. He was 85.

His wife of 38 years, Kathie Berlin, said the cause was chronic heart failure.

Mr. Valeriani joined NBC in the early 1960s. He was hired away from The Associated Press while covering the disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion in Cuba, where his proficiency in speaking Spanish with a Cuban dialect proved vital.

He went on to become a correspondent for "NBC Nightly News" and, for a few years in the 1970s, a co-anchor of "Today" from Washington.

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