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Retirement of 'Great Teacher' marks end of era

Story by
David Hurwitz

There are not many people who can truly say that their working lives spanned an era. But Kenzo Torikoshi, who retired at the end of June after a 48-year career with Stars and Stripes, can say precisely that.

He started as a newsboy at the age of 14 in 1963, just prior to a major expansion by Stars and Stripes in the Asia-Pacific region due to the Vietnam War. He finished his career with the newspaper as the Japan area manager of operations at a time when the paper is increasingly going digital to satisfy the demands of a new generation of readers.

One of his earliest memories at Stripes is of being "called in to sell



Kenzo Torikoshi (left) displays a framed copy of the front page of one of the first Stars and Stripes editions he sold and a mock "extra" on his career presented by Monte Dauphin, Japan circulation manager, at a farewell party held by colleagues in Roppongi on July 15. Photo by David Hurwitz

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