"It has to be spectacular or not at all, [to] help people understand the power of the word, how much it influences our culture and identity as a nation."—Malcolm O’Hagan in “Irish America,” Feb./Mar. 2012, w/DvJM’s photo-portrait of MOH leading off that magazine-article about him, tho w/o credit to DvJM. It’s the closeup window photo of MOH in SA98.

“If Dean English is still alive, he must be 205.”—Jim Lehrer (long known as “America’s Most Visible Marine”) to DvJM, 4-7-11.

“Perseverance is the hard work you do after you get tired of doing the hard work you already did.”—Newt Gingrich.

“No, Mr. Marcou! Don’t photograph in there when I’m not in my office!”—Margaret Warner.

“Life isn’t just to be found, you have to work for it.”—No Laughing Matter, Angus Wilson.

“Without an elite in the arts, we have no leaders, which is to say we have no vision, which is to say we have no arts.”—Robert Brustein.

“To write it, it took three months; to conceive it three minutes; to collect the data in it all my life.”—F. Scott Fitzgerald.

“The circulation of confidence is better than the circulation of money.”—James Madison.

“I believe that the journalism which succeeds best—and best deserves success—fears God and honors Man... seeks to give every man [and woman] a chance and, as far as law and honest wage and recognition of human brotherhood can make it so, an equal chance.”—From 1st MU J-School Dean Walt Williams’ 1914 Journalist’s Creed.

“Cover, write, and present every story with the care I would want if the story were about me.”—One guideline to MacNeil/Lehrer journalism.

“I may not earn much money, but I work very hard and ingeniously generally, and have written about & photographed more intriguing people than nearly anyone you’ll ever meet.”—DvJM.
Another Great Opportunity, by David Joseph Marcou.

On April 7, 2011, I got the opportunity to photograph the staff of the PBS NewsHour, because Jim Lehrer, founding co-anchor, had graduated from Missouri's Journalism School, like me, only earlier. His aide, Roma Hare, arranged for me to photograph Jim on-set, just before he went on-air, plus other anchors/staff. Gwen Ifill was absent then, but Judy Woodruff, Margaret Warner, Jeff Brown, and Haari Sreenivasan were in. Jim was soon to retire as co-anchor. He had authored many novels too and moderated a dozen or so presidential debates; his novels were often based on his upbringing via parents who drove for and/or owned bus companies, as could also be seen in his office's wealth of bus paraphernalia. A couple years before I photographed Jim, Leatherneck magazine wrote that Jim Lehrer, for 30 years, had been “America's Most Visible Marine.”

Within 30 hours leading up to the NewsHour session, I'd also made portraits of Sen. Herb Kohl & Cong. Ron Kind of Wisconsin, plus also cadged two nice candids of WI Cong. Paul Ryan (those pols appear in other books by me too). And I'd photographed Malcolm O'Hagan (who was inspired by the Dublin Writers Museum) just before the NewsHour pics in a 30-minute chat-and-photos session with the then-soon-to-be founder of the first American Writers Museum. His office in 2011 was in DC. I gave a money donation to MO'H and the script to my best Irish play, "Song of Joy—Or the Old Reliables", my sequel to a Sean O'Casey classic. (The AWM was founded informally in 2010; it was established in its first space in Chicago in 2017.) After photographing MO'H, I took the DC Metro, then the close-in bus, to Arlington, VA. At the time, my brother Tom & his wife, Joy, whom I was staying with for my DC sojourn, lived a mile from the PBS NewsHour studio, which was near the Turlington bus stop in Arlington.

After I'd walked past and photographed the WETA headquarters, which operates the PBS NewsHour studio two blocks from HQ, I arrived at the studio. I'd gotten there a bit early and anchors were still prepping for on-air time, so I chatted with the front-desk security guard, a good-sized young man who had played college football I believe. While I was waiting, Margaret Warner emerged with a program executive and a colleague, and they posed briefly for me. Judy Woodruff, who was co-anchor then but is now (2019) lead-anchor, walked in a couple minutes later w/Ms. Hare, so I cadged a quick photo of them too. When Ms. Hare later came to get me, she showed me the main staff room, with many editors and producers at work, where I took a general room photo or two including the program's wall masthead. I'd soon take a couple photo-portraits of Haari individually. The tour also included showing me a green room, offices of staff members, including Gwen Ifill's (including her love-seat & reflecting surfaces, her truthful door-sticker, & separately, her Wash. Week in Review set), Jeff Brown's, and Jim Lehrer's. Jeff was at work in his, so I took a couple candid photos of him through his hall window. JB's Emmy Award was sitting by his outside window.

I photographed Ms. Hare in her office and in one or two other spots too. Arriving at Margaret Warner's office, I began photographing her book-shelves and desk. Suddenly, I heard a shriek. Ms. Warner then enunciated clearly and loudly, “No, Mr. Marcou! Don't photograph in there when I'm not in my office!” She then proceeded to sit at her desk for several photo-portraits taken by me that turned out well. Before photographing Jim Lehrer on-set, I cadged more photos of Ms. Woodruff, prepping on-set by her laptop computer.

Then Ms. Hare took me to Jim's soon-to-be on-air spot, and introduced us to each other. When we chatted about the Missouri School of Journalism, he asked about the teachers I knew. He said he didn't know the print media four-some who'd been among my teachers, the Missouri Group of (textbook) Authors, Moen, Kennedy, Ranly, and Brooks. But he
remembered Dean English, saying, “If Dean English is still alive, he must be 205.” The good Dean had passed many years before 2011 and I don't believe he still worked at the J-School when I attended (1980-84). Jim sat still for a dozen or so photo-portraits taken by me from various angles and distances. They turned out well, so I shook Jim Lehrer's hand and thanked him, from one Mizzourah Tiger to another.

Ms. Hare then escorted me to Ms. Woodruff. When Ms. Hare properly introduced us, she said to Judy, “Jim said it's okay for Mr. Marcou to photograph you; he just photographed Jim.” Ms. W. responded, “If it's good-enough for Jim, it's good-enough for me.” So I took several photo-portraits of Ms. Woodruff too. I'd earlier photographed Ms. W's “empty” office, including her award plaque from Mother Teresa, which included a photo-portrait of the soon-to-be-Saint. Ms. Hare and I later discussed one of Judy’s children, who has spina bifida. I noted I'd twice reported-photographed young men with spina bifida – Patrick Clark in 1980 Columbia, MO; and Rudi Christopher in 1981 England. After I'd photographed the program's co-anchors, I was taken to the main control room & photographed there. Then I went to another prep room and photographed then-head of the NAACP, Ben Jealous, with an aide of his. Grover Norquist, the libertarian tax leader, was also present, as was PBS producer Beth. The basic lights in the control room had been from PC and TV monitors, where I photographed David Chalian candidly, PBS political correspondent. I also photographed the makeup artist in her setting. Back in the control-room, I gave Ms. Hare a monetary donation for PBS she wasn't expecting, plus one or two of my signed photo-books; she showed my business card to a colleague. When I'd wrapped up my picture-taking, I thanked Ms. Hare (she invited me to a post-program dinner with staff, but my brother and his wife were already preparing dinner for me), so we parted in good shape, and I exited studio after getting a taxicab. The cab-driver was very nice and I took his photo too.

When I arrived at Tom and Joy's house, dinner was almost ready. My son phoned from Georgia, and Tom & Joy & I took turns chatting with him; I photographed Tom & Joy on phone. It was very good hearing from my son. Next, dinner was served, and we chatted about my week of taking photos of famous Washingtonians. Joy is a first-rate cook, so the meal was superb. Thank you to all who made Thursday, 4-7-11, in particular, a very productive photo-taking day for me. I'd photograph NYC eight hours that Saturday, and am grateful for all Tom & Joy do for me & my son.--1st Written by DvJM in Feb. 2019 and revised by DvJM in May 2019.