Richard Benedetto is a retired White House correspondent/columnist for USA TODAY and political columnist for the Gannett News Service. He has reported on government and politics on the local, state and national levels for nearly 40 years. Upon his retirement in 2006, he began teaching journalism and political science at American and Georgetown Universities in Washington, D.C., positions he now holds.

University Press of America published Benedetto’s memoir of his long reporting career, “Politicians Are People, Too,” in May 2006.

Benedetto is a founding member of USA TODAY, joining the newspaper in 1982, prior to its debut. He wrote the national newspaper’s first Page One cover story. In addition to reporting on the White House and national politics, he wrote a weekly political column for the Gannett News Service, which serves the Gannett's 85 daily newspapers. The column also appeared on the USATODAY.com website.


A native of Utica, N.Y., Benedetto began his journalism career with the Buffalo (N.Y.) Evening News, and held government reporting positions with the Utica (N.Y.) Daily Press and Observer-Dispatch. He also worked in the Albany bureau of Gannett News Service, covering state government/politics during the Gov. Hugh Carey administration.

Benedetto is a graduate of Syracuse University and holds an M.A. in Journalism from Syracuse’s Newhouse School of Public Communication. Syracuse University awarded him an honorary doctorate in 1992.