

Martin, ex-UPI employee

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When Rounelle Martin worked at the United Press International bureau in Atlanta, reporters deferred to her for everything from what to buy at Rich's to how to tell a war correspondent's wife that her husband had been captured in Cambodia and killed.

During the Vietnam War, Ms. Martin helped break the devastating news to the reporter's wife in the middle of the night. Lewis Lord of Falls Church, Va., then head of UPI's news operations in Atlanta, asked her to accompany him.

"Rounelle, bless her heart, took over," said Mr. Lord, now retired from U.S. News & World Report. "She seemed to know what to say and when and how to say it and when to be with the

wife and when not to. Rounelle stayed through the night."

The funeral for Ms. Martin, 79, of Decatur, who died of complications from anemia Sunday at Beverly Manor, is 1 p.m. today at Arlington Memorial Park Sunrise Chapel. H.M. Patterson & Son, Oglethorpe Hill, is in charge of arrangements.

In another instance, without asking a single question, Ms. Martin roused herself in the middle of the night to pay a fine for the child of someone she had worked with 20 years before.

"I can't think of anyone in the bureau I relied on more for advice, be it the UPI, the upbringing of my kids, or what to buy at Rich's department store," said Mr. Lord. "She was so helpful to so many people."

There are no immediate survivors.