O. Louis Mazzatenta wore many hats during his 42-year career with National Geographic magazine. He served as picture editor, director of layout and design, writer and photographer, among other roles. After retiring from the National Geographic Society in 1994, Mazzatenta continued his photographic and editorial work.

His first "retirement" job was to take charge of National Geographic's first foreign language venture. He directed the launch of National Geographic Japan, the first of over 30 foreign language editions of the magazine.

After the successful Japanese launch, Mazzatenta "retired" again. Within two months, he traveled to Xi’an, China, to photograph excavations of the life-size terra-cotta army of China’s first emperor, Qin Shi Huangdi. His photographic report, "China's Warriors Rise From the Earth," was published in the October 1996 issue of National Geographic. It and two subsequent articles brought the magnificent army to the world’s attention.

 Mazzatenta photographed 31 stories for National Geographic and handled studio and other photographic assignments. His work has appeared in U.S., Time, Newsweek, U.S. News & World Report, Ranger Rick, and international publications. Exhibitions of Mazzatenta's photographs have appeared in China, Japan, Spain, Italy, and the United States.

Though he photographed all over the world, his favorite locations were in China and Italy where he focused his camera on subjects involving archaeology and paleontology. In China, in addition to the terra-cotta armies, he photographed stories about the Shang and Han dynasties, early life on earth, and dinosaurs evolving into birds. In Italy, he photographed articles on the ancient Romans buried at Herculaneum by the 72 AD eruption of Vesuvius, the Etruscans, the Appian Way, the Brindisi Bronzes, and endangered Italian art. He produced and picture-edited articles on the restoration of Michelangelo's frescoes in the Vatican's Sistine Chapel and took the photo of the restoration of Leonardo da Vinci’s “Last Supper” that appeared on the cover of *National Geographic.*

Before joining National Geographic, Mazzatenta attended and served on the staff of the U.S. Army Information School. Earlier, he was a photographer and picture editor at the Minneapolis Tribune and other newspapers in the Midwest. He received a Masters Degree in journalism from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, where he was a McCormick Scholar. At Kent State University, he earned his B.A. in journalism, was editor of an award winning yearbook and was named Sigma Delta Chi’s outstanding male journalism graduate of the year.

In retirement, Lou still handles photo assignments, and is chair of the Cosmotographers, the Cosmos Club’s photo group. He enjoys taking many classes on a multitude of subjects at OLLI, (the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) . He serves as an usher at St. Andrews Catholic Church in Clifton, VA.

Mazzatenta survives his wife Rita after 45 years of marriage. He remarried in 2015 and lives in Clifton, Virginia, with his wife Sheryl. He enjoys spending time with his smart and good looking four children and 13 grandchildren.