

# Fallen Journalists

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## MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

### **Statement of Ms. Barbara Cochran**

Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands  
Hearing on H.R. 3465, the Fallen Journalists Memorial Act  
Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman, for the opportunity to testify in support of H.R. 3465, the Fallen Journalists Memorial Act. This bipartisan legislation authorizes the Fallen Journalists Memorial (FJM) Foundation to establish a commemorative work on federal land in the District of Columbia.

I am here today in my capacity as President of the FJM Foundation. However, my background includes more than four decades of experience as a news executive. This includes serving as managing editor of the Washington Star, vice president for news of NPR, executive producer of NBC's Meet the Press and vice president and Washington bureau chief of CBS News. I was president of the Radio Television Digital News Association, the world's largest organization of broadcast journalists. For the past nine years, I have been a professor at the University of Missouri School of Journalism and directed its Washington program.

I want to express our appreciation to Representatives Grace Napolitano and Tom Cole for introducing H.R. 3465, which would allow for the establishment of a national memorial that honors the sacrifices of journalists who have died while performing jobs that are critical to keeping democracy accountable and functioning.

Additionally, I want to express our appreciation to National Resources Committee Chairman Raul Grijalva and so many other Members of the Committee for cosponsoring the measure. We are also grateful to Senators Ben Cardin and Rob Portman for introducing a similar bipartisan bill, S. 1969, in the Senate.

It is an all too frequent and unfortunate reality that the work of journalists can be risky, dangerous and even cost lives. Just 15 months ago the deadliest attack on journalists in U.S. history took place at the office of the Capital Gazette, the local newspaper in Annapolis, MD, when a gunman shot and killed five employees and wounded two others. So many others have died while covering war and conflict, from Ernie Pyle in World War II, to Francois Sully, Larry Burrows and Dana Stone in the Vietnam War, to David Bloom, Michael Kelly, Elizabeth Neuffer and Daniel Pearl in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. During my years in journalism, I have known other courageous journalists who lost their lives while reporting in dangerous conditions, including Anna Politkovskaya, Marie Colvin and Anja Niedringhaus.

Washington, D.C. has many monuments honoring those who have sacrificed their lives to protect our freedoms; yet, there is no memorial on public land to recognize the journalists who have made the same sacrifice. Such a memorial would demonstrate to our citizens and to

visitors from around the world that our country values a free press, honors the sacrifices of journalists and supports the family, friends and colleagues of the fallen.

### **About the FJM Foundation**

The FJM Foundation was established to support the enactment of the Fallen Journalists Memorial Act and, once enacted, to lead the effort to raise funds to design, develop, construct and maintain a memorial that will be an enduring tribute to the reporters, photojournalists, producers, editors and others who have died while performing their jobs as journalists.

The FJM Foundation operates under the auspices of the National Press Club Journalism Institute (NPCJI), which is the non-profit educational affiliate of the National Press Club. The Foundation is led by former Rep. David Dreier, Chairman of Tribune Publishing. The Foundation also is supported by numerous leaders from all segments of the journalism community who serve on our Board of Advisors, including editors and publishers, news anchors such as Tom Brokaw and Bret Baier, and photojournalists such as David Hume Kennerly (see Attachment A). Initial funding for the Foundation was provided by generous contributions from the Annenberg Foundation and the Michael and Jacky Ferro Foundation.

### **Fallen Journalists Memorial Act**

H.R. 3465 honors fallen journalists by authorizing the FJM Foundation to establish a commemorative work on federally owned and administered land designated as Areas I and II under the Commemorative Works Act (CWA). It does not authorize the building of such a memorial on what is known as the "Reserve," the area of the Mall where new commemorative works are prohibited.

Pursuant to the CWA, the legislation authorizes the FJM Foundation to design and build a Fallen Journalist Memorial with the input and approval of specified regulatory bodies, including the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA), and the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission (NCMAC).

As provided for by the CWA and stated in the legislation, the use of federal funds will be prohibited, and the Foundation will follow a process to ensure that the memorial is appropriately designed, constructed and located, and that sufficient funds are provided to the National Park Service (NPS) to maintain the memorial. It is the clear intention of the CWA, the legislation and the Foundation that the project will be completely funded and sustained by private donations.

The FJM Foundation understands that, pursuant to the CWA, if the memorial is not completed or a construction permit received within seven years following the date of enactment of the legislation, our authority to raise funds to design, develop, construct and maintain a memorial will expire.

I would note that H.R. 3465 was reviewed on September 24, 2019, by the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission. In a letter to Chairman Grijalva and Rep. Napolitano, the Commission "offered support for the purpose and need to establish a commemorative work

honoring journalists who have sacrificed their lives as guardians of democracy and for a free and independent press.”

### **Need for the Legislation**

A plaque in the lobby of the Tribune Tower in Chicago has the following quote from James Madison, a Founding Father and fourth President of the United States: “To the press alone, checkered as it is with abuses, the world is indebted for all the triumphs that have been gained by reason and humanity over error and oppression.”

As noted previously, there are many worthy federal monuments in Washington, D.C. to Americans who have sacrificed their lives while promoting the enduring values of our democracy. But there is no memorial to commemorate those who have died while working to advance what our founders enshrined in the First Amendment - a free and independent press. With the closing of the Newseum in January 2020 and, with it, the Journalists Memorial, it is time for a permanent memorial to be established.

Attached to this statement are a number of letters that eloquently articulate the need for a Fallen Journalists Memorial (see Attachment B). I also want to highlight a number of statements that were made by prominent individuals upon the introduction of the legislation and the establishment of the FJM Foundation, which also persuasively express the need for the legislation. These include:

“Journalists put their lives on the line every day to protect our democracy and a free and independent press. We must pay tribute to those who perished not only on the front lines of battle, but those whose lives have been lost while simply fulfilling their duty to deliver the news.” – ***Representative Grace Napolitano***.

Others “made reference to all the marvelous memorials that we have here in this city. Now, almost every one of them is either about defending free speech or is because a free press existed so that somebody could make the case that this country needed to do something, that we needed to deal with slavery, or that we needed to deal with civil rights. All of those things all relate back to freedom of expression, all of those things depended on individual journalists running risks, social risks sometimes, physical risks sometimes, certainly the risk of retaliation.” – ***Representative Tom Cole***.

“Every year, hundreds of journalists are attacked, imprisoned and murdered around the world. Some are killed because of what they do. Others have perished because of where they are. No matter the circumstances of their deaths, these journalists and their sacrifices deserve to be remembered. In a free society, a free press is a basic tenet. The fourth estate acts as both an expression and a guardian of liberty. That’s why we are beginning a campaign to erect a monument to fallen journalists in our nation’s capital.” – ***Hon. David Dreier, Chairman of Tribune Publishing and the FJM Foundation***.

“The freedom of press is the bedrock of our country. But we don't have a focal point where we can pay our respects for those that had literally given their life in the line of duty to protect the democracy of this nation. Journalists are being imprisoned and killed because of their commitment to democracy. This memorial will give us a chance to re-double our efforts to

understand how important the freedom of press is to our democratic system here in America and around the world.” – **Senator Ben Cardin**.

“This memorial will serve as a fitting tribute to the men and women in journalism ... who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of the First Amendment.” – **Senator Rob Portman**.

“Fifty-one years ago, as an American soldier in Vietnam, I met and knew pretty well three journalists who died in the course of covering that war, Francois Sully of Newsweek, Larry Burrows of Life, and Dana Stone of UPI. Whenever my friends come from out of town and I want to show them Washington, I walk down the Mall, and we usually go to one of the most moving places on the Mall for me, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, where the names of all the 50,000 Americans who died in combat are engraved on the wall. Those three names are not, nor are the names of the dozens of other reporters who died reporting and taking pictures in the same war. Other journalists, Michael Kelly, the editor of the Atlantic, a columnist for the Washington Post and many more died in the war in Iraq, and then Danny Pearl of the Wall Street Journal and others in the war in Afghanistan.” – **Donald Graham, Former Publisher of the Washington Post**.

“Journalism is, and always has been, a dangerous profession. Journalists run toward danger to cover it, not away from it. Annapolis and Anne Arundel County have started work on a Press Freedom Memorial. The city has donated space, Anne Arundel County agreed to help provide funding for it, and if Annapolis can do this, Washington can do the same. Journalism is vital to the success of our democracy. I know it at the local level, some of you know it at the national level, and I think a memorial like this is a just and fitting way to recognize that importance to our nation.” – **Rick Hutzell, Editor of the Capital Gazette**.

“Journalists are the first line of democracy and, while they put their lives in danger along with our troops, public servants and first responders, they seldom get the recognition for the bravery required to follow the news into perilous zones.” – **Andrew Johnson, President of the National Newspaper Association**.

“Our society has benefited tremendously from brave journalists, some of whom gave the ultimate sacrifice for truth. We will continue to need journalists and newsroom staffers to deliver the news to help keep our democracy thriving. Let’s show them our appreciation, as well as our support for the tenets of our democracy that promote the pursuit of truth and justice, by helping to honor their fallen colleagues through this memorial.” – **David Chavern, President and CEO of the News Media Alliance**.

### **Other Considerations**

**Fundraising Plan** – To ensure the long-term sustainability of the memorial, the FJM Foundation is in the process of developing a fundraising plan that will ensure the completion of the project within the timeframe and process proscribed by the CWA. This includes sufficient funding to design, develop, construct and maintain a memorial in perpetuity, as well as develop educational programming to provide on-going meaning and context.

**Memorial Design** – The FJM Foundation is in the process of establishing a committee of advisors to develop various concepts for the design of the Fallen Journalists Memorial. While no formal

decisions have been made, our preference is for a modestly-sized, non-intrusive memorial that would sit on a site of approximately one acre, that is cost-effective to maintain, that does not include names or definitions, and which represents the journalism community as broadly as possible, including reporters, photojournalists, producers, editors and others who have died while performing their jobs as journalists, both in the United States and abroad.

*Site Location* – The FJM Foundation intends to review appropriate sites in either Area I, which is reserved for commemorative works of “preeminent historical and lasting significance to the United States,” or Area II, which is reserved for “subjects of lasting historical significance to the American people.” The Foundation is in the process of establishing a committee of advisors that will work with a planning, design and environmental analysis firm to identify and recommend appropriate site locations in Areas I and II. Site location criteria will include, among other things, nexus to a journalism-related entity, ease of public access, support of legislative sponsors, support of regulatory bodies, ability to attract private funding, and construction affordability.

### **Conclusion**

The FJM Foundation is grateful for the Subcommittee’s consideration of this worthy project, which will be a source of education, awareness and pride for our entire nation. We welcome the opportunity to work with you to advance H.R. 3465 through the House of Representatives as quickly as practical. In the meantime, I am happy to answer any questions or provide any additional information you may need.

**Attachment A – FJM Foundation Board of Advisors**  
(as of December 3, 2019)

Wallis Annenberg

Bret Baier, Fox News

Dean Baquet, The New York Times

Willow Bay, USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism

Amanda Bennett, Voice of America

Tom Brokaw, NBC News

Christopher Dolan, Washington Times

Major Garrett, CBS News

Donald Graham, Graham Holdings

Hugh Hewitt, Salem Radio Network

Brit Hume, Fox News

Al Hunt, Journalist

Rick Hutzell, Capital Gazette

Alberto Ibarra, Knight Foundation

Dr. John L. Jackson Jr., Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania

Tom Johnson, formerly CNN and Los Angeles Times

Cinny Kennard, The Annenberg Foundation

David Hume Kennerly, Photojournalist

Alison Fitzgerald Kodjak, National Press Club and Associated Press

Jim Lehrer, formerly PBS NewsHour

Andrea Mitchell, NBC News

Matt Murray, Wall Street Journal

Jan Neuharth, Freedom Forum, Freedom Forum Institute and Newseum

Clarence Page, Chicago Tribune

Tom Rosenstiel, American Press Institute

Christopher Ruddy, Newsmax

Bob Schieffer, CBS News

Gerald F. Seib, Wall Street Journal

Joel Simon, Committee to Protect Journalists

Catherine Merrill Williams, Washingtonian

Judy Woodruff, PBS NewsHour

**Attachment B – Support for the Fallen Journalists Memorial**



**National Federation of Press Women**

**President**  
Gwendolynne Larson  
Kansas

**Vice President**  
Karen Rowley  
Louisiana

**Secretary**  
Julie Campbell  
Virginia

**Treasurer**  
Jane Falany  
Alabama

**Past President**  
Marianne Wolf-Astrauskas  
Illinois

September 12, 2019

Mr. Peter May  
Chairman  
National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission  
1100 Ohio Drive, SW., Room 220  
Washington, D.C. 20242

Dear Mr. May:

Few people who contemplate a career in journalism realize how dangerous the occupation can be. Journalists are killed covering armed conflicts. Journalists die covering natural disasters. Journalists are killed in workplace shootings. Journalists die in vehicle accidents while heading from one assignment to the next.

Indeed, the stories of 2,344 journalists from around the world who have died since 1837 have been collected by the Newseum.

The National Federation of Press Women wholeheartedly supports the efforts of the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation and the bipartisan legislation introduced into the U.S. House and Senate to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs.

NFPW, founded in 1937, affirms the importance of a free press as a basic tenet of a free, open and transparent society. Our organization deplores the actions of those whose attacks on the media have made U.S. journalists more vulnerable to reprisals for their work.

Every year, hundreds of journalists are attacked, imprisoned and murdered around the world. NFPW considers the death of any journalist who perishes in the quest to keep the public informed the most brutal form of censorship.

A memorial in the District of Columbia honors these journalists who have died "in the line of duty" and serves as a reminder of the essential value of a free press to our society.

Sincerely,

Gwendolynne Larson  
President

2369 Road J5  
Americus, Kansas 66835



Military Reporters & Editors  
C/O Medill News Servic3  
1325 G St. NW Suite 730  
Washington, D.C. 2005

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Sept. 13, 2019

Mr. Peter May

Chairman  
National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission  
1100 Ohio Drive, SW., Room 220  
Washington, D.C. 20242

Dear Mr. May:

I am writing you in my capacity as president of Military Reporters & Editors, or MRE, an association of journalists who cover national security, to express our support for the proposed Fallen Journalists Memorial.

MRE is a membership group dedicated to improving public awareness of military affairs and advocating for transparency and press freedom, among other goals. We are based in Washington, D.C., but have scores of members across the country.

A Fallen Journalists Memorial would be a fitting way to commemorate the many journalists who have died, including those who have died while covering wars around the world.

Since 1992, 1,352 journalists were killed while doing their jobs, mostly because they were in a dangerous place, were caught in crossfire or were murdered for what they wrote, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. Many more were injured.

A considerable portion of these deceased journalists met their fate while covering wars and conflicts. The victims include many reporters from numerous countries, most of whom are not household names.

A few of the noteworthy journalists from around the world who have died or went missing while covering recent wars include:



- Daniel Pearl, a Wall Street Journal journalist who was beheaded in 2002 by terrorists in Pakistan.
- Michael Kelly, a National Journal editor who died in Iraq in 2003 when a Humvee he was riding in careened off the road after taking gunfire.
- Marie Colvin, an American who worked for Britain's the Sunday Times. Colvin was killed in Syria in 2012 when government forces bombed the building in which she was working.
- James Foley, an American freelancer whom Islamic State terrorists in Syria beheaded in 2014.

These journalists and many others paid the ultimate price. They did so while they sought to inform the world's citizens about its conflicts. We need a memorial that commemorates this fact.

It is also important that Americans in particular realize the critical role that journalists, despite their flaws, play in enabling our democracy to effectively function in both wartime and peacetime.

MRE includes journalists who have covered and will cover war zones. So it is especially important for us to know that the sacrifices our brothers and sisters have made will be remembered.

Thank you for your kind consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

John M. Donnelly  
President, Military Reporters & Editors



September 12, 2019

Mr. Peter May  
Chairman  
National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission  
1100 Ohio Drive, SW  
Room 220  
Washington, DC 20242

Attention: Beth Porter, Secretary to the Commission

Dear Chairman May:

The News Media Alliance, a 132-year-old trade association representing nearly 2,000 newspapers and their multiplatform businesses, respectfully submits this statement in support of the Fallen Journalist Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Journalists are the linchpin of American democracy; the foundation of an informed citizenry. Whether covering the opening of a new local business, a city council meeting, the White House or war, journalists seek the truth and deliver news to their readers about their local communities and the rest of the world. Doing so, however, can often be dangerous.

It was a little more than a year ago that the United States saw the deadliest attack on journalism in our nation's modern history, when five *Capital Gazette* employees were killed in their Annapolis, Maryland, newsroom because someone did not like what they had published. In 2015, broadcast journalist Alison Parker and cameraman Adam Ward, with WDBJ-TV in Roanoke, Virginia, were also slain by a gunman while on a routine assignment to interview the local head of the Chamber of Commerce. Journalists from Pulitzer Prize-winning syndicated columnist Ernie Pyle in World War II to NBC's David Bloom in the Iraq War lost their lives while traveling with troops so that American citizens, including soldiers' families, could stay on top of U.S. military action on foreign soil. Over our nation's history, hundreds of U.S. journalists have died doing their jobs so that the American public could stay informed.

When a journalist is killed in the line of duty, the entire community suffers. There is one less watchdog, one less truth-teller and one less engaged citizen in the world. But outside of their newsrooms and the news industry, they rarely receive the recognition they deserve for their sacrifice.



The Alliance believes the time is right for our country to recognize these brave journalists. A national memorial will not only honor journalists who have sacrificed their lives in pursuit of the news, it also will be an important reminder to our fellow citizens and visitors from around the world of the importance of journalism and a free press in a functioning democracy.

If authorized by Congress, the memorial will be funded privately. The Alliance and its members will work diligently with the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation to see that this memorial becomes a reality and is an inspiration for all who visit it.

We strongly encourage the Commission to support our efforts for this memorial and recommend its establishment to the U.S. Congress.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Chavern", is written over a large, light blue circular scribble.

David Chavern  
President & CEO, News Media Alliance



National Newspaper Association – Washington  
 Office  
 200 Little Falls Street Suite 405  
 Falls Church, VA 22046  
 703.237-9801  
 Web Site: [www.nnaweb.org](http://www.nnaweb.org)

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Peter May  
 Chairman, National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission  
 National Park Service  
 1100 Ohio Dr SW  
 Washington, DC 20242

In Re: Hr 3465/S 1969 to authorize the Fallen Journalists Memorial

Dear Mr. May:

The National Newspaper Association represents the community newspapers of America, from the smallest circulations of a few hundred readers to larger weeklies that are the only media sources in many small towns. Our newspapers put journalists of all ages, backgrounds, interests and abilities on the streets every day of the week to cover their towns. We see America at her best and at her worst, at work, at play and at war. Journalists are often caught in the crossfires of our passions about the ways we live in a democracy.

Sorrowfully, many of our colleagues were friends and neighbors of the journalists who lost their lives at the Capital-Gazette, of those who died at the hands of terrorists and those who, like Arizona investigative reporter Don Bolles, gave his life to expose corruption. Some in our midst still remember World War II reporter Ernie Pyle, killed on his final assignment in Japan, and David Lardner, the son of renowned humor journalist Ring Lardner, also killed in World War II. There are so many others.

Perhaps more intimately, our colleagues can recite stories of phoned threats, street assaults and even armed gunmen who show up in a newsroom because they are unhappy with the paper.

The nation is filled with monuments to brave people who gave their lives that our nation might live. We believe it is time for Washington to display a memorial that will provide focus to the importance of journalism and news coverage for school children and their families, foreign visitors who do not enjoy a vibrant and free press and the colleagues and loved ones of those who gave their lives.

This memorial will be privately funded. NNA has endorsed the establishment of the Fallen Journalists Memorial Fund and we will work alongside this group to help the memorial come into being. We hope the Commission will support our efforts with a positive recommendation to Congress.

Sincerely,

Andrew Johnson, NNA President  
 Publisher, Dodge County (WI) Pionier

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*National Newspaper Association, founded in 1885, represents community newspapers across the United States. Our members are primarily weeklies and small dailies in America's small towns and communities. Write us at [info@nnaweb.org](mailto:info@nnaweb.org).*



September 24, 2019

Mr. Peter May  
Chairman  
National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission  
1100 Ohio Drive, SW, Room 220  
Washington, D.C. 20242

Dear Chairman May,

I write to you from the Committee to Protect Journalists, an independent non-profit organization that advocates for press freedom worldwide, to express support for a Fallen Journalists Memorial located on federal property in Washington, D.C.

Earlier this year, the Fallen Journalists Memorial Act of 2019 was introduced in both chambers of Congress with bipartisan support. These bills would authorize the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation to establish a work in Washington, D.C., "to commemorate the sacrifices made by journalists working as guardians of democracy and for a free and independent press." The proposal could not have come at a more appropriate time.

One of CPJ's core priorities is to track attacks on the press around the world. CPJ does this in part by conducting an analysis of the number of journalists killed each year. Our research shows that the environment in which journalists operate is as dangerous as ever.

In 2018, at least 54 journalists [were killed](#) around the world. Thirty-four were singled out for murder in direct reprisal for their work, marking an 88 percent jump from 2017.

Since CPJ began [collecting data](#) in 1992, at least 1,353 journalists have been killed in relation to their work around the world. More than half—at least 868—were targeted for murder. Most others were killed in crossfire or while on dangerous assignment. Disturbingly, CPJ has found that in nine out of 10 cases of murdered journalists, the killers go unpunished.

While journalists in the U.S. are rarely killed, they are not immune to violence. In 2018, four journalists and a media worker were [murdered](#) in an attack on the *Capital Gazette* newspaper in Annapolis, Maryland.

Journalists play a crucial role in democratic society. They provide citizens with reliable information about their communities and other regions of the nation and the world. They depict the impact of conflict and humanitarian

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crises around the globe. They inform social and political debates. They help to hold powerful companies, organizations, and individuals to account.

The killings of journalists therefore not only deprive journalists of their right to life—they threaten the very stability of global society.

A consistent and principled position in defense of press freedom is rooted in U.S. history and foundational legal documents. The 1776 Virginia Declaration of Rights—which was echoed by the Declaration of Independence—stated, “That the freedom of the press is one of the great bulwarks of liberty, and can never be restrained but by despotic governments.” The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution later protected the right to freedom of the press from government interference.

By consequence, the U.S. has long been a leader in ensuring robust protections for freedom of the press, both at home and around the world. At a time when press freedom is under serious attack, it is all the more important the U.S. continue to show leadership. To this end, the construction of a Fallen Journalists Memorial would serve several purposes. It would:

- Place freedom of the press in its historical context as a founding value and right of the United States;
- Showcase the importance of an independent press to maintaining democratic society;
- Highlight the bravery that journalists have displayed in the line of duty and in the service of seeking the truth;
- Display to the millions of tourists who visit Washington, D.C., that the U.S. cherishes freedom of the press; and
- Show the families of fallen journalists that the U.S. stands in solidarity with them.

For all of these reasons, CPJ supports a national commemorative to fallen journalists in Washington, D.C.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel Simon".

Joel Simon  
Executive Director



**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FALLEN JOURNALISTS MEMORIAL**  
**Enacted by the RTDNA Board of Directors September 7, 2019**

**Whereas**, Four American journalists and one staff member of the *Capital Gazette* newspaper were shot and killed in Annapolis, Maryland, on June 28, 2018; and whereas, the U.S. Press Freedom Tracker, the archive of record for threats to press freedom in the U.S. of which RTDNA is a founding partner, notes that at least 27 journalists have been physically assaulted in the United States thus far in 2019;

**and whereas**, the bipartisan Fallen Journalists Memorial Act of 2019 (H.R. 3465 and S. 1969) authorizes the newly established Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation (FJM Foundation) to raise funds and work with appropriate entities to site and build a memorial to pay tribute to the journalists who have died while performing their jobs;

**and whereas**, the Fallen Journalists Memorial Act follows the legal framework established by Commemorative Works Act (CWA) of 1986 for the placement of commemorative works on federal land in the District of Columbia. It prohibits the use of federal funds and requires the Foundation to follow a process to ensure that the memorial is appropriately designed, constructed and located, and that sufficient funds are provided to the National Park Service (NPS) to maintain the memorial.

**and whereas**, the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation (FJM Foundation) will work to enact legislation, raise funds and build a Fallen Journalists Memorial on federal land in Washington, D.C. that will pay tribute to journalists who have died while performing their jobs. The FJM Foundation will operate under the auspices of the National Press Club Journalism Institute (NPCJI), which is the non-profit affiliate of the National Press Club;

**and whereas**, the Radio Television News Directors Association, d/b/a the Radio Television Digital News Association (RTDNA), duly registered as a 501(c)(6) corporation in the state of Delaware, is one of the preeminent press freedom professional associations and is the world's largest professional association devoted exclusively to advocating on behalf of broadcast and digital journalists;

**therefore, let it be resolved** that on this seventh day of September 2019, the RTDNA Board of Directors has unanimously adopted this statement of full support for the Fallen Journalists Memorial Act and the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation.

Dan Shelley ♦ Executive Director  
 National Press Building ♦ 529 14<sup>th</sup> Street NW Suite 1240 ♦ Washington, DC 20045 ♦ dans@rtdna.org ♦ 212.246.0398  
 rtdna.org



September 13, 2019

Via Electronic Mail to: [beth\\_porter@nps.gov](mailto:beth_porter@nps.gov)

Mr. Peter May  
 Chairman  
 National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission  
 1100 Ohio Drive, SW.  
 Room 220  
 Washington, DC 20242  
Attention: Beth Porter, Secretary to the Commission

Dear Chairman May,

It is my understanding that your Commission will be reviewing H.R. 3465/S.1969, bills to authorize the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation, on September 24, 2019 as part of your mission to advise the Secretary of the Interior, the Administrator of the General Services Administration, and Members and Committees of Congress regarding the establishment of commemorative works in the District of Columbia and its environs. On behalf of the News Leaders Association, I urge the commission to favorably recommend the passage of this legislation and support the creation of a Fallen Journalists Memorial.

The News Leaders Association was formed via the merger of the American Society of News Editors and the Associated Press Media Editors in September 2019. It aims to foster and develop the highest standards of trustworthy, truth-seeking journalism; to advocate for open, honest and transparent government; to fight for free speech and an independent press; and to nurture the next generation of news leaders committed to spreading knowledge that informs democracy.

It may be trivia to some, but it is of the utmost pride to our organization and our members, that the press is the only private business mentioned by name in the United States Constitution. Our Founding Fathers recognized the essential service a free and vibrant press provides in acting as a surrogate for the public in overseeing the activities of government. The enshrinement of freedom of the press in the First Amendment to the Constitution reflected their belief that the press is a cornerstone of our Republic.

Much as the other memorials and monuments in our Nation's Capital honor the pillars and heroes of our democracy, so too would the Fallen Journalists Memorial be a fitting honor to those to served our country as members of a free press. While physical attacks on the press have been – thankfully – relatively rare when compared to those occurring other countries, many American journalists have tragically lost their lives in service to the public interest. Sadly, these





incidents have increased in recent years, most notably with the murders of five valued colleagues at the *Capitol Gazette* in Annapolis, Maryland on June 28, 2018.

Trif Alatzas, Publisher and editor-in-chief of the Baltimore Sun Media Group, owner of the *Capitol Gazette*, and Chase Cook, a reporter at the *Capitol Gazette*, spoke at the News Leaders Convention in Austin, Texas in September 2018. Just this week, we honored the staff of the *Capitol Gazette* as winners of our Al Neuharth Breaking News Reporting Award at our Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana.

We ask that you similarly honor these five journalists and all others in the United States and around the world who have been killed in the line of work.

Thank you,

Michael Days  
President  
News Leaders Association.

# REPORTERS COMMITTEE

FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

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for purposes of identification*

September 13, 2019

Chairman Peter May  
National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission  
1100 Ohio Drive S.W., Room 220  
Washington, D.C. 20242

Attention: Beth Porter, Secretary to the Commission

Dear Chairman May:

The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press was founded by leading journalists and media lawyers in 1970 when the nation's news media faced an unprecedented wave of government subpoenas forcing reporters to name confidential sources. Today, its attorneys provide pro bono legal representation, amicus curiae support and other legal resources to protect First Amendment freedoms and the newsgathering rights of journalists.

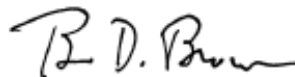
The Reporters Committee respectfully submits this statement in support of the Fallen Journalists Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Journalists are central to our democracy and a free and independent press is essential for an informed electorate. Although the killing of journalists is something that may seem distant to many in this country, hundreds of American journalists have died in the course of their work. Most recently, in June 2018, five employees with the Capital Gazette in Annapolis, Maryland, were murdered, the worst such attack in American history. Journalists have been killed covering wars, financial corruption, land fraud, and even while interviewing the executive director of a local Chamber of Commerce.

Their sacrifice in pursuit of truth, transparency and public accountability should not be forgotten. The Fallen Journalists Memorial would recognize that sacrifice and remind the American public how important press freedom and journalism is to our entire nation.

The Reporters Committee strongly encourages the Commission to recommend the establishment of this memorial to Congress.

Sincerely,



Bruce D. Brown

Bob L. Schieffer  
2700 Calvert Street, NW  
Apartment 816  
Washington, DC 20008

September 9, 2019

Mr. Peter May  
Chairman  
National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission  
1100 Ohio Drive, SW, Room 220  
Washington, D. C. 20242

Dear Mr. May,

Americans from the beginning have believed they have a right to independently gathered information which can be compared to the government's version of events. It is what sets us apart from totalitarian governments where there is only one source of news: the government. The right to independently gathered information is as crucial to our way of government as the right to vote. Over hundreds of years, people around the world have fought and died to win that same right and in America many have risked their lives and sometimes died to keep it. I can think of no finer way to honor those brave souls than to finally recognize the ultimate sacrifice so many of them made.

I urge the Commission to approve this project.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Schieffer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bob Schieffer  
CBS News

## THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Gerald F. Seib  
Executive Washington Editor and Chief Commentator  
Tel: (202) 862.9225  
Email: Jerry.Seib@wsj.com

Mr. Peter May  
Chairman  
National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission  
1100 Ohio Drive, SW., Room 220  
Washington, D.C. 20242

Dear Mr. May,

One of the lowest moments of my professional life came late one night when I got a call telling me that Danny Pearl, my friend, colleague and successor as Middle East correspondent, had disappeared in Pakistan. An even lower moment came weeks later when I got another, even darker call telling me the Wall Street Journal had seen a video showing Danny beheaded by terrorists.

Over time, though, shock and sadness gave way to pride--pride that my friend had given his life in not just a good cause, but a vital one. Journalism provides what citizens in an open and democratic society need for that society to thrive, which is an understanding of their fellow citizens, the country around them and the world beyond.

And in pursuing that final piece of journalists' mission--helping their fellow citizens understand the world beyond their shores--journalists must and do take risks. They walk the same dangerous streets as do American diplomats and aid workers. They charge into the same dangerous situations as do American soldiers, often alongside those soldiers. And yes, they sometimes pay with their lives.

Their contributions to American life and society may not be as numerous or as obvious as those of fallen military warriors, but they are just as vital. And it is right to acknowledge the sacrifices they made, because they were made for the benefit of others. As one travels around Washington, there are monuments to honor a wide range of people, in many walks of life, who paid a personal price to advance what former Defense Secretary Jim Mattis calls this great experiment in democracy. It is right that such sacrifices are honored, so they can be remembered and, when necessary, even repeated. The same is true for journalists such as my friend Danny Pearl.

As a former foreign correspondent myself, and as president of the Gridiron Club, the oldest journalistic organization in Washington, I want to add my voice to the effort to produce a permanent monument so they, too, will never be forgotten.

Sincerely,

*Jerry*

Gerald F. Seib



T 703 345 6330  
don@ghco.com

Donald E. Graham  
*Chairman of the Board*

Mr. Peter May  
Chairman  
National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission  
1100 Ohio Drive, SW., Room 220  
Washington, D.C. 20242

Dear Mr. May and Fellow Commissioners:

I am Donald Graham, former publisher of The Washington Post and a lifelong DC resident.

I hope the commission will lend its support to the proposal for a Fallen Journalists' Memorial on federal property in Washington, DC. The proposal, put forward by former Rep. David Dreier, recognizes the many journalists who have given their lives trying to tell important stories to their readers or viewers.

More than 50 years ago, I served in the US Army's 1st Air Cavalry Division in Vietnam. It was my honor to know many brave reporters from US and other news organizations, some of whom died in the course of the war. All they wanted was to tell the story of this conflict to those at home. Some paid with their lives.

The same has been true in our recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Michael Kelly, a columnist for the Washington Post, and many other reporters and photographers died in the course of reporting those wars.

Even more sadly, other journalists have been killed for no reason except someone's anger at the newspaper or broadcaster that employed them. These have included four people at the Annapolis Capital, gunned down by a mass shooter in their own newsroom.

As a Vietnam veteran, I am proud that our country has honored those who gave their lives in that war with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Many of those whose names were on that wall spent time alongside reporters and photographers who were also, in every sense, Vietnam War dead.

I hope the commission will lend its support to the proposal for a Fallen Journalists' Memorial in an appropriate place in Washington, DC.

Best,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Donald E. Graham".

Donald E. Graham

**FREEDOM  
FORUM**

**NEWSEUM**

**FREEDOM  
FORUM  
INSTITUTE**

September 10, 2019

Mr. Peter May  
Chairman  
National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission  
1100 Ohio Drive, SW., Room 220  
Washington, D.C. 20242

Dear Mr. May:

I am writing as an advisory board member of the Fallen Journalists Memorial (FJM) Foundation — and as Chair and CEO of the Freedom Forum, which was founded to educate the public about press freedom and the First Amendment — in support of legislation to establish the Fallen Journalists Memorial on federal land in Washington, D.C.

The mission of the Fallen Journalists Memorial (FJM) Foundation is to commemorate America's commitment to a free press by honoring journalists who have sacrificed their lives in service to democracy. The FJM Foundation is working to enact legislation, raise funds and build a Fallen Journalists Memorial that will pay tribute to the reporters, photojournalists, producers, editors and others who have died while performing their jobs as journalists.

As the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission examines proposals for conformance with the Commemorative Works Act and makes recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior and to Congress, among others, we at the Freedom Forum, Freedom Forum Institute and Newseum would like to join others in advocating that you make a positive recommendation on behalf of the Fallen Journalists Memorial.

The Freedom Forum has long been dedicated to educating the public about the importance of journalism and the dangers faced by its practitioners just for doing their jobs — intimidation, imprisonment, injury and death. We established a memorial to journalists in 1997 as a cornerstone of the Newseum to remind the world that journalism is a dangerous profession. The very first name on the memorial is Elijah Parish Lovejoy, an abolitionist who was shot to death in Illinois in 1837 when he tried to protect his newspaper's printing press from a pro-slavery mob.

Our Journalists Memorial through the years and in an annual rededication event has reinforced why it is essential that reporters bear witness so that the world may know the truth; and recognizes those who pay the ultimate cost for their work. Today, there are 2,344 names of journalists etched on the memorial.

Now, we believe it is time for a national memorial on public land that will commemorate journalists who have sacrificed their lives to pursue the news. We have recently agreed to sell the building in which the Newseum is located as we move forward to continue our First Amendment-based mission. As we pursue a future for our initiative, we believe there is a compelling need to join with the FJM Foundation to ensure that our country has a national commemorative memorial to journalists in our nation's capital.

We are honored to play a role in the quest to establish a Fallen Journalists Memorial in Washington, D.C., and, in tandem with the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation, help make sure that it will be a source of education, awareness and pride for our entire nation.

Sincerely,



Jan Neuharth  
Chair and CEO, Freedom Forum

**Tom Johnson  
3280 Rilman Road  
Atlanta, Georgia 30327**

September 13, 2019

Mr. Peter May  
Chairman  
National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission  
1100 Ohio Drive, SW., Room 220  
Washington, D.C. 20242

Attention: Beth Porter, Secretary to the Commission

Dear Mr. May:

As former publisher of the Los Angeles Times and as former chief executive officer of Cable News Network (CNN), I have been responsible for sending many reporters, photojournalists, producers, editors and other journalists into very dangerous situations around the world. Some have been imprisoned and even killed. My LA Times Tehran bureau chief, Joe Alex Morris Jr., was killed while covering the overthrow of the Shah of Iran by militants. My South American bureau chief Dial Torgerson was killed on the Honduran Nicaraguan border even though his car had large letters identifying him as press.

These and other journalists take such risks because of the fundamental American belief that we owe it to our citizens to find and to tell the truth. Yet, there currently is no U.S. national monument to their sacrifice and heroism.

That is why I'm writing to support the effort to establish the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation to honor those journalists from the U.S. and overseas who have lost their lives while doing their duty. I am pleased to serve as a member of the Board of Advisors to the foundation and strongly support these efforts.

The legislation to create the foundation is H.R. 3465/S.1969, a bill to authorize the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs. The legislation was introduced by Senators Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Rob Portman (R-OH) and Representatives Grace Napolitano (D-CA) and Tom Cole (R-OK) one year after the deadliest attack on journalism in modern United States history, when five Capital Gazette employees were killed in their Annapolis, Maryland, newsroom on June 28, 2018.

A Fallen Journalists Memorial would recognize the thousands of journalists, in America and overseas, who have lost their lives exposing the truth about military conflicts, disasters, protests, upheavals, corruption and organized crime. It would clearly be of preeminent historical and lasting significance to the United States. Such a national memorial does not currently exist. That is a grievous oversight that I hope can be corrected as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Tom Johnson

## Wallis Annenberg

17 September 2019  
Los Angeles, California

Mr. Peter May  
Chairman  
National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission  
1100 Ohio Drive, SW, Room 220  
Washington, D.C. 20242

Dear Chairman May and Fellow Commissioners,

Happy Autumn season in the nation's capital.

I am writing you today in support of the proposed Fallen Journalists Memorial (FJM) in Washington, D.C.

Every cause I support is important to me, but few are as personal as this one. My father, Ambassador Walter H. Annenberg, began his career in publishing. From his tenure at *The Philadelphia Inquirer* to his work as the Chairman of Triangle Publications, he understood better than most how journalism, communication, and education are essential to the health of our democracy. He pioneered the idea of educational television programming and founded both the Annenberg School for Communication at University of Pennsylvania and the Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism at the University of Southern California.

I have spent my own life carrying on and expanding the family legacy at both schools, especially when it comes to the funding of construction and the creation of a new building housing one of the nation's leading study and multimedia centers—Wallis Annenberg Hall at USC which opened in 2014. In addition, the Annenberg Space for Photography in Los Angeles, which I opened 10 years ago, regularly focuses on the often-dangerous work of photojournalists including those who have died in the line or duty. Photography is a passion of mine, and photojournalists must be remembered as well.

Overall, it is my sincere hope that this commission will move to honor the work of fallen journalists whose commitment to truth, freedom, and knowledge have cost them their lives. No one can dispute that their service to our great country deserves such a recognition. It is also my wish that this memorial will teach a new generation about their honor and sacrifice, while inspiring others to pursue journalism—a vocation that is not just honorable, but essential to our democracy.

In this spirit, I urge the commission to move forward with the proposed Fallen Journalists Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Sincerely,

Wallis Annenberg

10273 Century Woods Drive

Los Angeles, CA 90067



# NEWSmaxMEDIA

September 11, 2019

Mr. Peter May  
Chairman  
National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission  
1100 Ohio Drive, SW., Room 220  
Washington, D.C. 20242

Dear Chairman May:

There can be absolutely no doubting the high-level of importance of H.R. 3465, as is pending in the U.S. House, (and as S. 1969 in the U.S. Senate). The purpose of these resolutions are to establish the Fallen Journalists Memorial on federal land, specifically, and most significantly -- in our nation's capital.

Newsmax and myself fully support the Fallen Journalists Memorial and believes it complies with our nation's Commemorative Works Act.

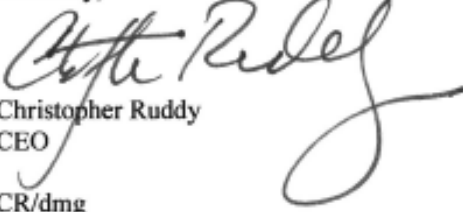
As you have indicated in your correspondence of September 5th, you will be testifying on behalf of the FJM Foundation. Please accept my heartfelt support for this effort.

Should our nation, and the rest of the world, forget the importance of the preservation of the First Amendment, as well as fail to unceasingly honor those who have literally given their lives for it, our republic will suffer.

The foundation's work now, and in the future, will serve to both educate and remind that our First Amendment, as with other constitutional amendments, continue thanks to the sacrifice of many, including journalists.

Thank you for your important work on behalf of a free press and a free people.

Sincerely,



Christopher Ruddy  
CEO  
CR/dmg

cc: Barbara Cochran, President  
Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation  
[Barbara.cochran@fallenjournalists.org](mailto:Barbara.cochran@fallenjournalists.org)