



**National Newspaper Association – Washington**

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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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Johnson".

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).*