

**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.

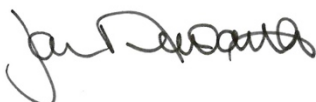
The Freedom Forum has long been dedicated to educating the public about the importance of journalism and the dangers faced by its practitioners just for doing their jobs — intimidation, imprisonment, injury and death. We established a memorial to journalists in 1997 as a cornerstone of the Newseum to 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