



## Building a National Memorial to Commemorate America's Commitment to Press Freedom and Those Who Died Advancing It Around the World

A free and independent press is one of America's greatest historical achievements. It serves as an inspiration to both established and fledgling democracies around the world. That commitment, however, does not come without sacrifice. At home and abroad, journalists confront a range of threats as they pursue the truth. Those threats often include murder, kidnapping, harassment and other forms of violence and intimidation.

In our nation's capital, replete with worthy monuments and memorials honoring those who have sacrificed their lives to uphold the enduring values of our country, the absence of a Fallen Journalists Memorial is a glaring omission. That is why Congress passed the Fallen Journalists Memorial Act. Enacted into law in December 2020, it authorized the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation to "establish a commemorative work on Federal land in the District of Columbia and its environs to commemorate America's commitment to a free press by honoring journalists who sacrificed their lives in service to that cause."

As in the case of other memorials in Washington, there is a direct link between the values our country represents and those memorialized in fighting for those values. The Foundation has been entrusted with this two-fold mission – to build a memorial that honors fallen journalists and to educate current and future generations about the critical role of the free press as a pillar of a vibrant democracy.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FALLEN JOURNALISTS MEMORIAL

**Where will the memorial be located?** The Foundation will be seeking additional approval from Congress to locate the memorial in an area adjacent to the National Mall known as Area I, and in direct line of sight of the U.S. Capitol. This will reinforce what the First Amendment makes clear – that the press is independent of the government and serves as a watchdog to hold government accountable to the people. With the help of the design and engineering firm AECOM, the Foundation completed a site selection study and presented it to the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission on October 5, 2021. The Commission unanimously agreed with the Foundation's recommendation and has advised the Secretary of Interior to support a Congressional authorization to locate the memorial in Area I. The Foundation will be working to secure that authorization in 2022.



**What will the memorial look like?** The Foundation is collaborating with Pulitzer Prize-winning architecture critic Paul Goldberger to develop a process for determining the design of the memorial and to assist in the selection process for the architect. The Foundation plans to finalize that process in early 2022, announce design goals for the memorial, and begin identifying potential architects, with the aim of announcing a preferred design concept by the end of 2022. While no formal decisions have been made, the Foundation is considering a modestly sized, non-intrusive memorial, without names, that represents the full breadth of journalism – past, present and future. The memorial will be a commemorative landscape that will serve as a place for reflection and appreciation for those who lost their lives, a focal point for learning about the First Amendment and the role of journalism in a functioning democracy, and a convening space for commemoration. In addition to a physical memorial, the Foundation will provide programming and digital resources to amplify the history of the First Amendment and the free press and to portray the courage of individual journalists who sacrificed their lives. The Foundation will undertake initiatives, including partnership efforts with educational institutions, journalism organizations, and other stakeholders that work to protect a free press.

**How much will the memorial cost?** The memorial will be funded entirely by private donations. The ultimate cost of the memorial will depend on variables including the location, size and design of the memorial, materials used, the approval and permitting process, construction and maintenance costs, and any educational programs associated with the Foundation. Based on previous memorials, it is estimated that the total cost could be up to \$50 million. This total meets the requirement to allocate 10 percent of the funding to the National Park Service for maintenance of the memorial. It also includes funds to provide ongoing educational programming. Given the challenges the journalism industry is facing, this is a worthwhile investment that will enhance the awareness and understanding of the importance of journalism to our democracy.

**When will the project be completed?** Designing and building a memorial in Washington, D.C., on federal land is dictated by the Commemorative Works Act of 1986. The Act outlines a seven-year framework from enactment of authorizing legislation to completion of the project. The process is overseen by the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission, which is chaired by the National Park Service and made up of other key regulatory agencies that approve commemorative project designs. They include the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, the National Capital Planning Commission, and others.

**Why is this memorial being established now?** The effort to build a Fallen Journalists Memorial was launched by former U.S. Representative and Tribune Publishing Company Chairman David Dreier to mark the first anniversary of the deadliest assault against journalists in United States history. That was the June 28, 2018, murder of five employees in the newsroom of the Tribune's *Capital Gazette* in Annapolis, Maryland. Additionally, in 2019, the Newseum, which housed a memorial to fallen journalists, closed its doors.

**Who leads the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation?** The Foundation is led by Dreier and former news executive and journalism professor Barbara Cochran. Numerous leaders from all segments of the journalism community serve on its Board of Advisors. The Foundation currently operates under the auspices of the National Press Club Journalism Institute, the non-profit educational affiliate of the National Press Club.

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