

September 21, 2020

Dear Representative:

In honor of the many reporters, editors, photographers and broadcasters who have lost their lives reporting the news, we at the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation, News Media Alliance, National Newspaper Association and National Association of Broadcasters are writing to urge you to support H.R. 3465, the *Fallen Journalists Memorial Act*. This bipartisan legislation, sponsored by Representatives Grace Napolitano and Tom Cole, is scheduled to be considered by the full House today (September 21) under suspension of the rules.

H.R. 3465 authorizes the Fallen Journalists Memorial (FJM) Foundation to establish a memorial on federal land in Washington, DC to commemorate America's commitment to a free press by honoring those journalists who sacrificed their lives in service to that cause. It precludes the building of such a memorial on what is known as the "Reserve," the area of the Mall in Washington, DC where new commemorative works are prohibited.

H.R. 3465 also prohibits the use of federal funds. It requires the FJM Foundation, which operates under the auspices of the National Press Club Journalism Institute, to follow a particular process to ensure that the memorial is appropriately designed, constructed and located, and that sufficient private funds are provided to the National Park Service to maintain the memorial.

The work of journalists can be dangerous and even cost them their lives. Two years ago, on June 28, 2018, the deadliest attack on journalists in U.S. history took place at the office of the *Capital Gazette*, the local newspaper in Annapolis, Maryland, when a gunman shot and killed five employees and wounded two others. Many others have died while covering war and conflict, or while on assignment in other dangerous conditions.

Washington 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.

In addition to our four organizations, other organizations supporting the legislation include: Military Reporters and Editors Association, National Federation of Press Women, Committee to Protect Journalists, Freedom Forum, News Leaders Association and Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, and the Radio Television Digital News Association.

We ask that you support H.R. 3465 when it is considered in the House. Not only will the legislation authorize a memorial that honors journalists who gave their lives reporting the news

to ensure an informed democracy, it will also be a source of education, awareness and pride for our entire nation.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Vince Randazzo at the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation at vince@fallenjournalists.org or 202-577-9411.

Sincerely,

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News Media Alliance

Barbara Cochran
President
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