



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 does not come without sacrifice. Journalists and photojournalists 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. It authorized the 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 memorial will be located at the east entrance of the National Mall, in direct line of sight of the U.S. Capitol, at Independence Avenue, Maryland Avenue, and 3rd SW, between the National Museum of the American Indian and the Voice of America. Locating the memorial on an unattached “island” parcel within close

FALLEN JOURNALISTS MEMORIAL

Approved Site: Maryland & Independence Avenues at 3rd Street SW



Site Location: Southwest Site Size: ~0.31 acres Area I Location: Yes

Site Criteria	Notes
Program Suitability	Could accommodate permanent commemorative feature and gatherings; possible closure of Maryland Avenue for events.
Thematic Nexus	Across Independence Avenue SW from Voice of America Headquarters and two blocks from U.S. Capitol; clear view of U.S. Capitol dome from site.
Universal Accessibility	Two blocks from Metrorail station. Offers locations for those covering U.S. government and legislative process.
Site Prominence and Visibility	Adjacent to U.S. Capitol Grounds and National Museum of the American Indian; one block from National Mall, Eisenhower and American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorials.
Independence	Bordered on all sides by roadways.
Site Availability	NPS jurisdiction.
Transportation Access	A 4-minute walk from the Federal Center SW, a 7-minute walk from the L'Enfant Plaza, and a 16-minute walk from the Archives Metrorail stations.
Tranquility	Location along busy Independence Avenue SW and less busy Maryland Avenue.
Infrastructure	No known conflicts are present.




1: View northeast

proximity of each of the three branches of government underscores the essential and independent role that journalists play in holding those institutions accountable to the people.

Is the memorial only about American journalists? America is a unique model with its First Amendment. Journalists and press freedoms are under attack across the globe. We will memorialize all journalists who have died while in pursuit of truth.

What will the memorial look like? The design team selection process is being overseen by Pulitzer Prize-winning architecture critic Paul Goldberger, with design concepts to be developed in early 2024. 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 have 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 to portray the courage of individual journalists who sacrificed their lives. The foundation will undertake these initiatives in partnership 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 size and design, materials used, the approval and permitting process, construction and maintenance costs, as well as associated educational programs. Based on previous memorials, it is estimated that the total cost will be \$50 million. This total meets the requirement to allocate 10 percent of the funding to the National Park Service for long-term maintenance. Given the challenges that the journalism industry is facing, this will enhance the awareness and understanding of how vital journalism is to our democracy.

When will the project be completed? 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 such as the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission. The foundation expects to dedicate the memorial in late 2028.

Why is this memorial being established now? The effort to build the Fallen Journalists Memorial was launched by former U.S. Representative and Tribune Publishing Company Chairman David Dreier at 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. Since then, hundreds of journalists and media workers around the world have been killed while doing their jobs. 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, former news executive and journalism professor Barbara Cochran and a board of advisors.

Contacts:	Barbara Cochran President 202-716-6510 barbara.cochran@fallenjournalists.org	Vincent Randazzo Project Director 202-577-9411 vince@fallenjournalists.org
------------------	--	--