Word count: 373

**The Fallen Journalists Memorial Will Honor Those Lost in the Pursuit of Truth**

*By David Chavern, President & CEO, News Media Alliance*

Journalists are America’s ambassadors of democratic society. Every day, they go out into the field to seek the news and share it with their communities. Whether covering the opening of a new local business, a city council meeting, the White House or a foreign war, journalists put themselves on the line as they seek out the truth to deliver information to their readers about their communities and the outside world.

However, doing so can often be dangerous, and every year, dozens of journalists around the world don’t return home, giving the ultimate sacrifice – their lives – while working to report the news and promoting the free flow of information necessary for a strong and informed democracy.

When a journalist is killed in the line of duty, the entire community suffers. There is one less watchdog, one less truth-teller and one less engaged citizen in the world. But outside of their newsrooms, they rarely receive the recognition they deserve for their sacrifice. Congress now has the opportunity to change that by enacting the “Fallen Journalists Memorial Act of 2019,” which has been introduced in the House (H.R. 3464) and Senate (S. 1969) and would create a national memorial to honor the men and women who have lost their lives.

If enacted, the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation will raise private funds to build the memorial on federal land in Washington, D.C.

But to get this legislation passed, it needs the support of all of us. News organizations and the public can support this effort by encouraging their Representatives and Senators to co-sponsor the legislation that will set the construction of the memorial in motion.

Readers can also be some of the first people to donate to the creation of the memorial. [Here’s how](https://www.fallenjournalists.org/support/).

Our society has benefited tremendously from brave journalists, some of whom gave the ultimate sacrifice for truth. We will continue to need journalists and newsroom staffers to deliver the news to help keep our democracy thriving. Let’s show them our appreciation, as well as our support for the tenets of our democracy that promote the pursuit of truth and justice, by helping to honor their fallen colleagues through this memorial.