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Grace F. Napolitano
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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Mr. Peter May
Chairman
National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission
1100 Ohio Drive, SW, Room 220
Washington, D.C. 20242

Dear Chairman May,

I am writing to you as the sponsor of H.R. 3465, the Fallen Journalists Memorial Act of 2019, a bipartisan bill to establish the Fallen Journalists Memorial in our nation's capital.

Journalists put their life on the line every day to protect our democracy as well as a free and independent press. The only memorial that currently exists to honor the sacrifices of these men and women is at the Newseum in Washington, D.C., which is slated to close in January 2020. With the Newseum closing, there will be no place that commemorates those that gave their lives in the field of journalism.

All over the nation's capital are federal monuments dedicated to Americans that have sacrificed their lives while promoting the values of our democracy. It is past due that there be a permanent, commemorative work to honor the journalists that put their lives on the line at home and abroad to bring us the truth and defend our First Amendment rights.

This memorial does not require any taxpayer funds and I am confident in the Fallen Journalist Memorial Foundation's ability to privately fund the memorial and meet the requirements and deadlines of the Commemorative Works Act.

I urge the Commission to support the Fallen Journalists Memorial so that we may pay tribute to those who perished not only on the front lines of battle, but those whose lives have been lost while fulfilling their duty to deliver the news.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress