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FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

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September 13, 2019

Chairman Peter May  
National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission  
1100 Ohio Drive S.W., Room 220  
Washington, D.C. 20242

Attention: Beth Porter, Secretary to the Commission

Dear Chairman May:

The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press was founded by leading journalists and media lawyers in 1970 when the nation's news media faced an unprecedented wave of government subpoenas forcing reporters to name confidential sources. Today, its attorneys provide pro bono legal representation, amicus curiae support and other legal resources to protect First Amendment freedoms and the newsgathering rights of journalists.

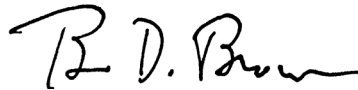
The Reporters Committee respectfully submits this statement in support of the Fallen Journalists Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Journalists are central to our democracy and a free and independent press is essential for an informed electorate. Although the killing of journalists is something that may seem distant to many in this country, hundreds of American journalists have died in the course of their work. Most recently, in June 2018, five employees with the Capital Gazette in Annapolis, Maryland, were murdered, the worst such attack in American history. Journalists have been killed covering wars, financial corruption, land fraud, and even while interviewing the executive director of a local Chamber of Commerce.

Their sacrifice in pursuit of truth, transparency and public accountability should not be forgotten. The Fallen Journalists Memorial would recognize that sacrifice and remind the American public how important press freedom and journalism is to our entire nation.

The Reporters Committee strongly encourages the Commission to recommend the establishment of this memorial to Congress.

Sincerely,



Bruce D. Brown