

THE MERRIMAN SMITH MEMORIAL FUND

THE MERRIMAN SMITH AWARD

CALL FOR ENTRIES

The Merriman Smith Memorial fund is pleased to announce competition for awards in presidential news coverage. The prizes for 2015 of \$2,500 each will be awarded in two categories.

PRINT	Newspaper, wire service, magazine
BROADCAST	Radio and television

The awards will be presented at the White House Correspondents' Association annual dinner, to be held at the Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, DC, on Saturday, April 25, 2015. The fund was organized in 1970 in memory of the late Merriman Smith of United Press International, a White House correspondent for more than 30 years. The award was conceived to perpetuate Mr. Smith's memory and to promote the excellence he brought to his profession.

The 2015 awards will be based on the following criteria:

A single story written, dictated or broadcast under deadline pressure.

The story must have emanated from coverage of the presidency, either in the United States or abroad. Any subject of news interest (political, diplomatic, scientific, economic, social, security, appointments, any foreign or domestic matter) which developed in the course of presidential news coverage, will be considered.

A nominee must have been based in the Washington area and must have been on permanent or temporary assignment covering the presidency.

Four factors will be assessed in the judging of a story: accuracy, speed, objectivity, and initiative.

Correspondents employed by any recognized news organization are eligible to enter.

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GUIDELINES FOR THE 2015 MERRIMAN SMITH AWARD

* Material for consideration must have been published or broadcast in the calendar year ending December 31, 2014.

* Three (3) copies of the story to be considered must be submitted with the following information: dateline; date of publication or broadcast; time and date of filing, and time and date of deadline; and certification by the nominee's supervisor that the nominee wrote, dictated or broadcast the story. A completed entry form must accompany each of the three copies of the story.

* Print entries may be in the form of clippings, original material, wire copy printouts, or photocopies. Entries will not be returned.

* Broadcast entries must be in the form of a script and audio/video (DVD). In the case of a live broadcast, an air check is required. DVD must also be in triplicate.

* Online entries, which may be submitted in either the broadcast or print category, must be in the form of Web page printouts and other original material.

* Only **ONE** entry should be filed by a nominee or in a nominee's behalf.

* Each copy of an entry must be accompanied by a completed entry form.

* The decision of the judges on all matters relating to the awards is final.

* **All entries must be received at the WHCA office on or before 5 PM, March 4, 2015.**

* Entries are to be submitted to the Merriman Smith Memorial Award, White House Correspondents' Association, 600 New Hampshire Ave. NW, #800, Washington, DC 20037

* Please place the name of the award on the entry envelope.

Trustees of the Merriman Smith Memorial Fund are chosen according to the by-laws of the fund which state that the current president of the White House Correspondents' Association is chairman of the board of trustees. Trustees of the fund and judges are not eligible for the 2015 award.

ENTRY FORM

**MERRIMAN SMITH AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE
IN PRESIDENTIAL NEWS COVERAGE**

NAME OF NOMINEE: _____

PUBLICATION/NEWS ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS OF ORGANIZATION: _____

TELEPHONE: (work) _____ **(home)** _____

EMAIL: _____

Supply dateline; date of publication; date and time of filing; date and time of deadline for the story submitted and a brief description of the situation the reporter faced. Enclose three (3) copies of the story, and three (3) copies of this form. Use extra pages if needed.

I certify the nominee wrote, dictated or broadcast this story.

(Please Print)

Supervisor Name: _____

Supervisor Title: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Reminder: *Please enclose brief comments on criteria for this competition: speed, accuracy objectivity, initiative. Note any unusual factors involved and specify if story was exclusive.*

**THE ENTRY MUST BE RECEIVED AT THE WHCA OFFICE NO LATER THAN
5 PM, MARCH 4, 2015.** Additional entry forms are available on our website at whca.net.

Send entry to:
Merriman Smith Memorial Award
White House Correspondents' Association
600 New Hampshire Ave. NW, #800
Washington, DC 20037