

THE MERRIMAN SMITH AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PRESIDENTIAL NEWS COVERAGE UNDER DEADLINE PRESSURE

CALL FOR ENTRIES

The White House Correspondents' Association is pleased to announce competition for the Merriman Smith Award in presidential news coverage. The award is named for the late Merriman Smith of United Press International, a White House correspondent for more than 30 years and a former president of the WHCA.

The prize recognizes coverage under deadline pressure, and will be offered in two categories:

PRINT - Newspaper, wire service, magazine

BROADCAST - Radio and television

Each award comes with a prize of \$2,500 and 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, 2020.

The 2020 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.

GUIDELINES FOR THE 2020 MERRIMAN SMITH AWARD

* Material for consideration must have been published or broadcast in the calendar year ending December 31, 2019.

* Please provide a brief description of the situation the reporter faced. Include brief comments on criteria for this competition: speed, accuracy objectivity, initiative. Note any unusual factors involved and specify if story was exclusive.

* Please include a supervisor's certification that the nominee wrote, dictated or broadcast this story.

* Broadcast entries must be in the form of a script and audio/video submitted online. In the case of a live broadcast, an air check is required.

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

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

All entries must be received on or before 5 PM, March 2, 2020.