

The Freedom of Speech and Expression Medal

**On this, the fifth day of October 2019, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Freedom of Speech and Expression Medal is awarded to:
*The Boston Globe***

In 2018, the U.S. fell to 48th place in global rankings of press freedom.ⁱ

As bad actors seek to undermine our democracy with mis- and disinformation, and corporate consolidation creates layoff sprees and local news deserts across the nation, quality independent journalism has never mattered more. Yet some politicians increasingly sow distrust and incite violence against our media, and the fourth estate must grapple with existential challenges of a graver sort.

The land of the free is in peril. But journalists are proving every day that America is the home of the brave. As demagogues have put our democracy to the test, the *Boston Globe* in particular has risen to the challenge, meeting the fears of millions with fearless and peerless reporting and advocacy.

Last year, you called on news organizations around the country to publish editorials supporting a free press and its vital role in our democracy. Over 350 outlets answered that call,ⁱⁱ sending the resounding message that the pen is mightier than the sword and that First Amendment freedoms are inviolable.

Inspired by your leadership, the United States Senate echoed that message. In a unanimous resolution condemning “attacks on the institution of the free press,” the Senate reiterated that it “views efforts to systematically undermine the credibility of the press as an attack on the democratic institutions of the United States.”ⁱⁱⁱ

Your award-winning reporting and investigative journalism have exposed wrongdoing, opened minds, and saved lives. Your leadership and advocacy for the First Amendment may yet save democracy. I am honored to present you and the *Boston Globe* with the 2019 Freedom of Speech and Expression Medal.

ⁱ Reporters Without Borders 2019 World Press Freedom Index <https://rsf.org/en/ranking>

ⁱⁱ *Boston Globe* article - August 2018 <https://www.bostonglobe.com/news/politics/2018/08/16/editorial-effort-support-free-press-sparks-both-praise-and-pushback/yvLNHmOuS44r4IMnQ7vM5O/story.html>

ⁱⁱⁱ CBS News article - August 2018 <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/senate-unanimously-passes-resolution-declaring-the-press-is-not-the-enemy-of-the-people/>