

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 2

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By: **Senator Elfreth**

Introduced and read first time: March 1, 2019

Assigned to: Rules

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Freedom of the Press Day**

3 FOR the purpose of designating June 28 as Freedom of the Press Day; and generally
4 relating to Freedom of the Press Day.

5 WHEREAS, The Founding Fathers of the United States recognized the critical
6 importance of a free press to the nation's democracy through the inclusion of the right to a
7 free press in the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America; and

8 WHEREAS, Other nations do not enjoy this right; and

9 WHEREAS, Members of the United States armed forces have given the ultimate
10 sacrifice to protect this right; and

11 WHEREAS, This right is threatened in the United States and around the world by
12 acts of violence and dangerous, irresponsible rhetoric; and

13 WHEREAS, The General Assembly honors on June 28 the loss of the lives of Gerald
14 Fischman, Rob Hiaasen, John McNamara, Rebecca Smith, and Wendi Winters of the
15 Capital Gazette, who were murdered conducting work as journalists in Annapolis,
16 Maryland; and

17 WHEREAS, The Annapolis community, Anne Arundel County, the State of
18 Maryland, the United States of America, and citizens of the world mourn the loss of the
19 lives of these journalists, as well as journalists both domestic and international, who have
20 died in the line of duty; and

21 WHEREAS, The General Assembly of Maryland desires that June 28 be recognized
22 as Freedom of the Press Day in Maryland to memorialize the lives lost on June 28, 2018,
23 at the Capital Gazette offices and to honor and protect all journalists serving a vital role in
24 our State's democratic process to inform residents of the happenings of their governments;
25 now, therefore, be it



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1 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the General
2 Assembly of Maryland designates June 28 as Freedom of the Press Day; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
4 Legislative Services to the Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Governor of Maryland; the
5 Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and the
6 Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates.