



David Lynch Memorial Reporting Award

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WASHINGTON – Deirdre Shesgreen of Gannett has won the David Lynch Award for exceptional coverage of Congress from a local perspective.

The David Lynch Memorial Regional Reporting Award is given to the daily-print reporter whose work provides an understanding of the inner workings of Congress and explains how actions in Congress impact the local community. Judges look for thorough and incisive coverage, clear writing, and the reporter's ability to explain difficult and complex subjects to a hometown audience.

Honorable Mentions went to Tom Brune of Newsday and Karoun Demirjian of the Las Vegas Sun.

According to the judge's citations:

-- Deirdre Shesgreen demonstrates a well-honed sensitivity to the ideal of solid regional reporting, which in today's journalism arguably is the most important in helping readers understand the world that affects them directly. She combines in depth reporting with a fine narrative writing style.

Her work exemplifies the spirit of the Lynch Award. She found strong local angles to important stories and offered both a sense of place for the region and voices from the people living within it.

Her writing was sharp and vivid and she demonstrated an ability to craft a piece with a nicely turned phrase, and to paraphrase when it made sense. Her concise but well placed details gave her work an added shine.

-- Tom Brune's work exemplified how local stories can be national. His strong writing style and detailed descriptions of the New York delegation brought the reporting to life. His March on Washington piece in particular, and his inclusion of the breakdown of the 1964 vote among the delegation was clever and illustrated why readers should care.

-- Karoun Demirjian's work was well written and demonstrated mastery of a wide variety of topics. She presented the local impact of Congress and an understanding of the delegation in each piece.

Shesgreen received a \$3000 award and all three reporters were honored Wednesday night, February 5th at the 70th Annual Congressional Dinner, hosted by the Washington

Press Club Foundation. The award is administered jointly by the Senate Press Gallery and the Washington Press Club Foundation.

Judges for the contest were Laurie Kellman of the Associated Press, Mike Soraghan of Energywire, Christina Bellantoni, incoming Managing Editor of Roll Call, Jason Dick, House Editor at Roll Call and Frank Aukofer, retired Washington bureau chief of the Milwaukee Journal and author of the freelance automobile review column DriveWays. The judges were selected by the Standing Committee of Correspondents, an elected committee of reporters that credentials the approximately 1800 daily-print reporters who cover Congress.

The late David Lynch was a longtime member of the U.S. House and Senate Press Galleries. He covered Congress for the Buffalo News and for news bureaus that served daily newspapers in New England, Alaska, South Carolina, Iowa and Nebraska. After Lynch's death in 1998 from colon cancer, his family, friends and journalism colleagues raised money to establish the award in his name.

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