Annual Journalism Prize Competition

Winners of the Gerald R. Ford Prize for Distinguished Reporting on the Presidency
1989  Michael Isikoff, Newsweek
1990  Susan Page, Newsday
1991  Burt Solomon, National Journal
1992  Kenneth Walsh, U.S. News
1994  Michael Duffy, Time Magazine
1995  John Farrell, The Boston Globe
1996  Eric Pooley, Time Magazine
1997  Kenneth Walsh, U.S. News
1998  Michael Isikoff, Newsweek
1999  Carl Cannon, National Journal
2000  John Harris, The Washington Post
2001  Susan Page, USA Today
2002  Bob Woodward and Dan Balz, The W.P.
2003  James Carney, Time Magazine
2004  Jackie Calmes, The Wall Street Journal
2005  Tom DeFrank, New York Daily News
2006  Charlie Savage, The Boston Globe
2008  Kenneth Walsh, U.S. News & World Report
2009  Matt Bai, The New Republic
2011  Scott Wilson, The Washington Post
2012  John Dickerson, Slate
2013  Glenn Thrush, Politico
2016  Gregory Korte, USA Today
2017  Ashley Parker & Philip Rucker, The Washington Post
2018  Ashley Parker, The Washington Post
2019  Christian Miller, Megan Rose, Robert Faturechi and Agnes Chang, Pro Publica

Winners of the Gerald R. Ford Prize for Distinguished Reporting on National Defense
1988  Charles Corddry, The Baltimore Sun
1989  Debra Lynn Polsky, Defense News
1990  James Kitfield, Government Executive
1992  David Morrison, National Journal
1993  Barton Gellman, The Washington Post
1994  Genevieve Anton, Gazette Telegraph
1995  James Kitfield, National Journal
1996  Russell Carollo, Dayton Daily News
1997  David Wood, Newhouse News Service
1998  Robert Holzer, Defense News
1999  John Dickerson, Slate
2000  Dana Priest, The Washington Post
2001  Dave Moniz, USA Today
2006  James Astill, The Economist
2010  James Kitfield, National Journal
2011  Douglas Jehl, Los Angeles Times
2012  James Kitfield, National Journal
2013  Marjorie A Land, The Virginian-Pilot
2014  Andrew deGrandpre, Military Times
2015  David Martin & Mary Walsh, The Washington Post
2018  Zach Dorfman & Jenna McLaughlin, Yahoo! News
2019  Christian Miller, Megan Rose, Robert Faturechi and Agnes Chang, Pro Publica

Dear Journalist,

I am pleased to announce the 34th Annual Gerald R. Ford Journalism Prizes, a competition for distinguished reporting in 2020.

DISTINGUISHED REPORTING ON THE PRESIDENCY or DISTINGUISHED REPORTING ON NATIONAL DEFENSE

In 1988, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation established the Journalism Prize Competition. With this annual award, President Ford wanted to recognize and encourage thoughtful, insightful, and enterprising work by journalists covering the presidency and national defense. The Foundation is proud to continue this tradition. Again this year, the Foundation will award two $5,000 prizes, one for distinguished achievement in reporting on the presidency and another on national defense during the calendar year 2020.

We are proud of our past winners and look forward to receiving this year’s entries. Please see the attachment for the nomination process, deadline, and selection of winner’s criteria. The awards will be presented in June 2021.

Submissions from print, broadcast, and online journalists are welcome.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions at press@38foundation.org or 616-254-0396. Information is also available on our website: www.geraldrfordfoundation.org.

Sincerely,

Gleaves Whitney
Executive Director
Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation
34th Annual Journalism Prize Competition

NOMINATIONS

- Entries must be for work published in print, broadcast, or presented online during 2020 by a media outlet based in the United States or its territories. (No podcasts allowed.)
- Journalists may apply directly, or be nominated for one of the two prizes each year.
- Submissions with joint bylines may apply, or be nominated.
- Entries must be submitted on behalf of a journalist(s) and not an organization.

DEADLINE

- Applications must be postmarked by Friday, March 19, 2021.

MATERIAL TO BE SUBMITTED

- There is no application form or entry fee.
- Must include a minimum of four, but not more than five articles or stories of the candidate’s best reporting during 2020 on either the presidency or national defense.
- A letter of nomination from someone who is familiar with the candidate’s work.
- A brief biographical sketch identifying the candidate’s journalistic experience and training. Include the candidate’s address, phone number, and e-mail address.

Submission via the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation Website:

- Submission page is: https://geraldrfordfoundation.org/journalism-award-prizes/
- All text material submitted electronically should be formatted and submitted as PDFs and measure no larger than 8 1/2 x 14 inches. If URLs are included in the material you must provide active links.
- Broadcast video entries must have a PDF transcript with material submission via live URL.
- Videos and other online content should be submitted via URL and must be placed outside of any paywall. If not possible, provide a simple username and password for judges.
- URLs must remain active until the prizes are awarded in June.

Submission by Mail:

- Broadcast entries submitted by mail must include 8 DVDs with transcripts of broadcasts.
- Postmarked by Friday, March 19, 2021.
- Address to: Journalism Contest Coordinator
  Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation
  303 Pearl Street NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504-5353
SELECTION OF WINNERS

Each prize will be determined by a separate panel of judges. Typically, judges are selected from journalism and academia or have experience in the executive branch or national defense.

CRITERIA

Judging will be based on the journalist’s ability to foster better public understanding of either the United States presidency or national defense. The prizes recognize reportorial excellence as reflected by resourcefulness, insight, brevity, and quality of writing, rather than the quality of editorial comment. Candidates for either prize should have compiled a year-long record of consistent, judicious, sensitive, and noteworthy coverage. The prizes recognize the quality of a journalist’s work throughout the year, rather than any single article or story.

Work may have appeared in print, broadcast, or been presented online during 2020 at a local, regional, national, or international level (daily newspapers, news magazines, or trade publications with a broad readership). Freelance as well as staff journalists may be candidates.

For the Presidency Prize, reporting should address ways in which the President exercises leadership, sets policy and makes decisions, initiates programs and responds to events, relies on Cabinet and senior staff, and the structure and functioning of White House operations.

For the National Defense Prize, reporting should address leadership, national security issues, Department of Defense operations, military operations, unconventional threats and targets, defense resource management, military preparedness, or international arms control.

Submit packet to/or contact for further information:

    Journalism Contest Coordinator
    Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation
    303 Pearl Street NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504-5353
    Phone: (616) 254-0396
    E-mail: press@38foundation.org
    Website: www.geraldrfordfoundation.org
    Find Us On Facebook: www.facebook.com/geraldrford