

The State of Maryland



Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland

**FREEDOM OF THE PRESS DAY
JUNE 28, 2023**

- WHEREAS,** *The Founding Fathers of the United States recognized the vital importance of a free press to uphold the nation's democracy through the inclusion of the right to a free press in the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Other nations throughout the world do not enjoy this right; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Members of the United States Armed Forces have defended and given the ultimate sacrifice to protect this right; and*
- WHEREAS,** *The right is threatened in the United States and around the world by acts of violence and dangerous, irresponsible rhetoric; and*
- WHEREAS,** *All Marylanders join on June 28, 2023 in honoring the loss of the lives of Gerald Fischman, Rob Hiaasen, John McNamara, Rebecca Smith, and Wendi Winters of the Capital Gazette, who were murdered in the newsroom in Annapolis, Maryland; and*
- WHEREAS,** *June 28, will be observed as Freedom of the Press Day in Maryland to memorialize the lives lost on June 28, 2018, at the Capital Gazette offices and to honor and protect all journalists serving a vital role in the world's democratic process to inform residents of the happenings of their governments.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WES MOORE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim JUNE 28, 2023 as FREEDOM OF THE PRESS DAY in Maryland, and do commend this observance to all of our citizens.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,
this 28th day of June
Two Thousand and twenty-three

Wes Moore
Governor

Oruna Miller
Lt. Governor

Susan C. Lee
Secretary of State