



NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

529 14TH Street, NW
Washington, DC 20045

(202) 662-7516
FAX (202) 662-7537

For Immediate Release
February 21, 2009

For More Information
Gil Klein, 703-338-2721
E-mail gklein@press.org

GERALD FORD MUSEUM IN GRAND RAPIDS, MICH. HOSTS NATIONAL PRESS CLUB FORUM ON JOURNALISM'S FUTURE

WASHINGTON – The National Press Club, the world's leading professional organization for journalists, is teaming up with the Gerald Ford Museum to look at where the news business is going and how to protect its core values.

The March 26 event, The First Amendment, Freedom of the Press and the Future of Journalism, will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the museum, 303 Pearl St. NW in Grand Rapids. It is free and open to the public.

Speaking on the panel will be:

Tim Geraghty, vice president and news director, WZZM-13
Meegan Holland, Online editor, MLive.com, Grand Rapids Press
Paul Schutt, partner and group publisher, Issue Media Group
Jane Briggs-Bunting, director of the Michigan State University School of Journalism

The panel will be moderated by Gil Klein, a veteran national correspondent, former National Press Club president and director of the Club's Centennial Forums program.

“President Ford was always a friend of the Club” said National Press Club president Donna Leinwand. “He spoke at the Club every year while presenting his Gerald Ford Awards for excellence in White House and defense reporting. In these tumultuous times for journalism, we are pleased to partner with his museum to bring distinguished Michigan journalists to talk about the news business.”

Library Director Elaine Didier said the Gerald R. Ford Library and Foundation are pleased to join with the Club to explore the issues facing journalism.

“President Ford had such a wonderful history with the National Press Club, it seemed only fitting that we would host the forum in Grand Rapids, at his Presidential Museum.” Didier said.

The event begins with a preview of the Club’s centennial documentary, “The National Press Club: A Century of Headlines,” which follows the history of American journalism through the lens of one of its leading institutions. Everyone who attends this forum will get a copy of the documentary.

That will be followed by a short presentation by Richard Ryan, a longtime Detroit News Washington correspondent and past Club president, about the relationship between Ford and the news media.

This forum is part of a nationwide conversation the National Press Club is holding during its 100th anniversary to look at where the news business is going and what news consumers should be demanding. Summaries of past forums, clips of video highlights and a report on the project’s findings are at www.press.org/juncture.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Gil Klein – National Press Club Centennial Project director, 703-338-2721.
E-mail gklein@press.org.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB:

The National Press Club is the world's leading professional organization for journalists. Founded in 1908, the Club has 3,500

members representing most major news organizations. Each year, the Club holds more than 2,000 events including news conferences, luncheons and panels, and more than 250,000 guests come through its doors.