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May 4, 2004

'C-L' reporter's name among 53 added to memorial

The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Va. — The names of 20 journalists who died during the war in Iraq last year and an Associated Press Television News cameraman killed while filming violence in the West Bank were among 53 names added Monday to a memorial to those who died covering the news.

In a solemn ceremony brought inside by poor weather, relatives, friends and colleagues heard the names read aloud while a single chime sounded for each journalist who died on the job.

Among the names read was James Walker, a Clarion-Ledger reporter who was killed in April 2003 in a traffic accident in Copiah County while traveling to interview the family of a Mississippi soldier killed in the Iraq war. Walker, a native of The Woodlands, Texas, had covered military affairs and the environment for the newspaper for two years.

The Freedom Forum Journalists Memorial, honoring reporters, photographers, editors and broadcasters, is rededicated each year to mark World Press Freedom Day.

Last year was the deadliest year for journalists covering conflicts since World War II.

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The ceremony began with a reading of 1,475 names of other journalists who have lost their lives since 1812.

The 53 new names represent a "grim testimony to the fact that journalism is becoming an increasingly dangerous profession," said Joe Urschel, executive director of the Newseum, the journalism museum formerly located next to the memorial.

Associated Press Television News cameraman Nazeem Darwazeh was killed on April 19 in the West Bank city of Nablus while filming clashes between Israeli troops and Palestinians.

This year's list includes more than a dozen journalists believed targeted for their coverage of government, politics or crime in Brazil, Cambodia, Colombia, India, Nepal, the Philippines and Russia.

The museum and the memorial are financed by the Freedom Forum, a nonprofit foundation dedicated to a free press.





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