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### **Trib Total Media's Richard A. Monti honored with PNA Benjamin Franklin Award for Excellence**

HARRISBURG, Pa. (July 6, 2023) — The Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association is proud to present the 2023 Benjamin Franklin Award for Excellence to Richard A. Monti, former managing editor and current consultant and board member for Trib Total Media. The Benjamin Franklin Award was established in 1998 to recognize outstanding service that reflects positively on the news media industry in Pennsylvania.

“For more than five decades, Rick has been a fixture on the Pennsylvania newspaper scene, mentoring generations of young reporters, passionately guarding journalists' often-challenged First Amendment rights, and fighting to ensure that great writing and solid reporting remain at the forefront of what occurs in our newsrooms every day,” Trib Total Media CEO Jennifer Bertetto wrote in her nomination letter.

“He just means the world to the media industry in Western Pennsylvania,” PNA President Bill Cotter said of Monti. “He’s just a great person, and he cares. I think that’s very well known in the industry.”

Monti began his career as a reporter for the Valley News Dispatch, at the time a Gannett newspaper, and went on to serve as editor and general manager. During his tenure, the newspaper achieved top honors in several statewide contests including PNA’s Keystone Press Awards and the Pennsylvania Associated Press Managing Editors awards.

Monti later moved into the senior deputy managing editor position at Trib Total Media’s Pittsburgh Tribune-Review and the company’s six suburban daily newspapers.

“In that position,” wrote Bertetto, “he championed local news and continued his lifelong mission to inspire his journalists to demand more of themselves while never losing sight of their responsibility to serve as watchdogs, advocates and catalysts for change in the world around them.”

Monti has also spent his career encouraging young journalists to pursue careers in the news industry. Through his involvement with the Press Club of Western Pennsylvania, he has worked to continue the legacy of Trib Total Media Managing Editor Bob Fryer by supporting and fundraising for the Bob Fryer Memorial Scholarship, which awards \$5,000 each year to an aspiring journalist.

“Anyone who has ever worked with Rick will tell you that they have emerged from the experience a better journalist,” Bertetto wrote. “For him, it has been a lifetime devoted to a craft that he loves.”

In a [TribLive.com article](#) announcing the award, Monti said he didn’t expect the recognition – his focus is always on producing his best work.

"It's certainly a big honor," he told TribLive. "You get up and you do what you've got to do today, and you try to do it 110%."

The award will be presented to Monti at PNA's Annual Dinner on Nov. 2, at the Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel.

**About PNA:**

Founded in 1925, PNA is the nonprofit trade association for print and online news media in Pennsylvania. Its mission is to advance the business interests of Pennsylvania news media organizations and to promote the importance of a free and independent press.