

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Melinda Condon

Email: melindac@pa-news.org

Phone: (717) 703-3002

Harry J. Deitz Sr. to receive special commendation from the PA News Leaders Association

HARRISBURG, Pa., August 17 – The Pennsylvania News Leaders Association honors Harry J. Deitz Sr., with a special commendation. The PNLA Board, in conjunction with the PNA Foundation, is recognizing Deitz for his more than 70 years of tireless community storytelling and devotion to journalism.

Deitz, 95, continues to work and remains a successful and prominent member of his community. He never leaves home without a camera and willingly covers local emergencies, going as far as being hoisted down on a stretcher basket to get a better photo.

He spent most of his journalism career in Shamokin with The News-Item after working at a weekly, The Shamokin Citizen. As a young man, Deitz joined the Army where he trained as a photographer during World War II. Throughout the years, he was recognized with Keystone Press Awards for his stories and photos.

In acknowledging Deitz for this special recognition, his son Terry commented, “I don’t know if there is anyone in the state who has given more to this industry on the front lines than him. He is someone who has truly lived and continues to live his life in search of the next big story!”

In its nearly 75 years, PNLA has presented this award of distinction to Pennsylvania journalists only once. In 2012, the organization – then known as PSNE – recognized Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage by The Patriot-News and The Philadelphia Inquirer.

“It is an honor to recognize Mr. Deitz for dedicating his lifetime to documenting people’s lives and stories. Few have had the dedication or fortitude to achieve what he has. He represents true community journalism,” said PNLA chairwoman, Marta Gouger, editor of the *Times-News*, Lehighton.

“Throughout his life and career, Mr. Deitz fostered an interest in journalism and truthfulness. After more than 70 years, he still displays a passion for storytelling through both words and images,” said PNLA first vice chair Larry Holeva, executive editor of Times-Shamrock Communications.

Added Melinda Condon, executive director of the PNA Foundation, “Mr. Deitz is an inspiration. Admiration for him only grows deeper when you learn his life story. He works tirelessly and passionately – not only for the family he loves and treasures – but also for the people of his community, telling their stories through the lens of his camera.”

This award will be presented on November 1, as part of the PNA Foundation’s Keystone Media Awards Luncheon to be held in conjunction with the News Media Revenue Summit at the Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

About PNLA:

In 2023, the Pennsylvania Society of News Editors and the Associated Press Media Editors formally merged into a new committee of senior media representatives under the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association (PNA).

The 16-member Pennsylvania News Leaders Association board includes journalism executives from print, digital and broadcasting companies across Pennsylvania. PNLA fosters and preserves the critical role of journalism and a free press in Pennsylvania by improving professional standards, encouraging collaboration, developing current and aspiring journalists and recognizing outstanding work.

About PNA Foundation:

The PNA Foundation is an independent, non-profit corporation organized as a public foundation. Its mission is to provide training and resources to PNA members, to develop the next generation of readers and journalists, and to educate the public on the importance of the First Amendment and the role of a free press.

About PNA:

The PNA, founded in 1925, is the nonprofit trade association for print and digital news media in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Its mission is to advance the business interests of Pennsylvania news media organizations and to promote a free and independent press. It has more than 210 newspaper and media-related members, including daily, weekly, and college newspapers and online publications.

###