

# POST GUILD UNIT

# FORUM...



*The Washington-Baltimore Newspaper Guild, Local 32035, TNG-CWA CCWACWA*

March 12, 2008

## Hull and Priest Win Heywood Broun Award

Washington Post reporters Anne Hull and Dana Priest have won the prestigious Heywood Broun Award, for their series of arresting stories documenting abysmal living conditions and other problems at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

The prize, named for the early 20<sup>th</sup>-century New York reporter and columnist who famously stood up for the powerless and the oppressed, is awarded annually by The Newspaper Guild-CWA. It includes a plaque and \$5,000, which will be presented May 21<sup>st</sup> at the union's Freedom Award Fund dinner in Washington, D.C.

The Walter Reed series, which started on Feb. 18, revealed the appalling living conditions and bureaucratic frustrations endured by Iraq war veterans who were housed and treated at the medical center. The stories prompted a personal apology from President Bush and led to the ousting of the Secretary of the Army, Walter Reed's commander, Maj. Gen. George Weightman, and the Army's surgeon general. The stories' impact stretched beyond the 110-acre facility in Washington, leading to widespread reform in the Army's health care treatment of wounded soldiers.

The Broun judging panel said it was so impressed by the entry and the outcry it produced in Congress and around the country that no other entry gave a serious challenge for the award. And that was in a year when there were so many outstanding entries by big and small newspapers that the judges decided to give out three "runner-up" or finalist awards in print instead of the usual one.

Last month, Hull and Priest won the 2008 Selden Ring Award for Investigative Reporting, a \$35,000 prize conferred by USC Annenberg's School of Journalism. The judges of that award congratulated the duo for "detailing how the once 'crown jewel of military medicine' has been transformed into 'a holding ground for physically and psychologically damaged outpatients' living in poor conditions and struggling in a 'messy bureaucratic battlefield nearly as chaotic as the real battlefields they faced overseas.'"

Heywood Campbell Broun (Dec. 7, 1888 – Dec. 18, 1939) was a reporter and columnist who wrote passionately for the underdogs of the world and was dedicated to the ideal that good journalism could make the world a better place. He founded the American Newspaper Guild, now known as The Newspaper Guild – the union that today represents about 1,150 reporters, editors, columnists, artists, computer specialists, advertising salespeople and circulation workers at The Washington Post.

Hull, a national enterprise reporter, and Priest, who covers the intelligence and military agencies, are both longtime Guild members at The Post.

The Guild congratulates both, and thanks them for keeping Heywood Broun's ideals alive.

by Rick Weiss and Robert Pierre

### **The Guild Is Working for You! Are You Doing Your Part? Help Build the Guild. Join Today.**

To join the Guild or for further information, please contact any of the following members:

Darlene Meyer	334-7007	JoAnn Goslin	334-7217
Rick Weiss	334-5514	Stephen Richardson	334-7730
Ann Marie Ditchey	334-5744	Sandi Randall	334-6938
Andreia Douglas	334-6353	David Robie	334-4313
Robert Pierre	334-5607	Craig Hall	202-306-6507
Dita Smith	334-7517	Rick Ehrmann	202-785-3650 ext 14
Alan Lengel	334-5556	Joe Kahraman	202-785-3650 ext 16
Chris Schoppa	334-6954		