

**Remarks by Carl Hulse  
Presenting The Media Institute's  
2014 Freedom of Speech Award  
To Senator Christopher J. Dodd  
November 18, 2014**

It is a privilege to be here to take part in the festivities tonight.

I was quite honored to be asked to introduce former Senator Dodd to receive his award and I thought no one was more deserving.

Of course, I initially thought he was receiving the "Speak Freely Award," which he often did while serving in the Senate. That made him very popular with reporters like myself during his many years on Capitol Hill.

But as it turns out it was the Freedom of Speech Award and he is exceedingly deserving of that honor as well. As a senator, Chris sponsored legislation to protect the crucial reporter-source relationship – a relationship that remains under attack today and is even more important to protect in the digital communication era.

As chairman of this year's Free Speech Week, he noted that the bill "would have created a federal shield law protecting journalists from facing the terrible choice of either revealing their confidential sources or going to jail." As many of you know, this remains a possibility at my news organization today.

He was one of the authors of the Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act signed into law in 2010 by President Obama. Named for the *Wall Street Journal* reporter murdered by terrorists in Pakistan, it requires the State Department to use treatment of the press as a measure of a nation's commitment to human rights in its regular reports. He also in 2005 helped win the freedom of a *Hartford Courant* photojournalist in Sudan.

Now, as head of the Motion Picture Association of America, Chris is responsible for protecting both the rights of the creators of film and the medium of film itself as one of our country's most powerful expressions of free speech.

We all know Chris's background. He was born with politics in his blood, the son of Senator Thomas Dodd. It is well known that his father was a prosecutor at the Nuremberg Trials but he was also one of the original G-men chasing gangsters back in the '30s, which is pretty cool.

Chris served in the Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic, hence his Spanish proficiency and long interest and expertise in Latin American affairs. He was elected to the House from Connecticut in 1974 and then to the Senate in 1980, where he remained until 2010 and took a leading role in many of the major policy fights over three decades.

He has been a persistent advocate for freedom and individual rights.

I do want to talk just a little about the final months of his career, which he finished at his father's old desk. Chris might have had one of the most successful finales of any legislator in history. He shepherded multiple big bills, any one of which would have been a singular achievement for a member of Congress. Of course, he is the Dodd in the Dodd-Frank financial industry regulation that Wall Street complains about, so it is probably a good thing. He took over the management of the health care bill after the death of his close friend Teddy Kennedy and saw that through.

He was instrumental in passing the stimulus legislation and a major consumer-oriented credit card reform bill. To top it off, he led the final push to finally get tobacco products regulated by the FDA.

It was quite a stretch run. And he did it all with dedication and good humor so different from the vitriol that marks much of politics today. He even got a shout-out for affability in President Bush's new book.

He hasn't lost his powers of persuasion. He somehow just got the FAA to allow the use of drones at film sites. You can add freedom of flight to his advocacy of freedom of speech.

Back in October of 2001, I wrote a story about the birth of their first child to Chris and his wife, Jackie, during the immediate aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks and the discovery of anthrax on Capitol Hill. The story about his enthusiastic later-life introduction to fatherhood got a lot of attention at the time because it was a bright spot at a difficult moment.

While Grace was named for both her grandmothers, Senator Dodd said the name also seemed appropriate at a time when the world needed a little more grace.

Chris Dodd has shown a lot of grace and determination in his career and has never forgotten that freedom of speech is essential to democracy.

So it is my honor to present him with The Media Institute's 2014 Freedom of Speech Award.