The Watchdog™
media research center™

INSIDE

mrc
media research center

Liberal Media Fawn Over Dead Iranian Terrorist, Reveal Their Vile, Anti-American Bias

President Donald Trump's decision to kill Iranian terrorist Qasem Soleimani on Jan. 3 when he was in Baghdad planning further attacks against U.S. forces was warranted and long overdue; Soleimani, between 2003 and 2011, had killed 608 American soldiers and maimed thousands of them with IEDs. He had also orchestrated the attack on the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad on Dec. 31.

Despite the elimination of this "global terrorist," as designated by the Obama administration, the liberal media painted him as a saint-like figure whose death was somehow unjustified and terribly dangerous for the United States. The leftist press predictably depicted Trump as reckless and naïve. It also went so far as to blame Trump for Iran's downing of a passenger airplane, which killed 176 people, following Soleimani's demise.

Imagine news reports bemoaning the death of the 9/11 terrorists — that's what this was like. The coverage shockingly revealed how anti-American the liberal media truly are.

The MRC documented and exposed this bias through its various divisions, particularly NewsBusters. Let's look at some examples.

The Washington Post headlined that the drone-missile strike killed "Iran's most revered military leader, Qasem Soleimani." NBC's Andrea Mitchell

Bemoaning the killing of a global terrorist and honoring him with titles reserved for heroes reveals how anti-American the liberal media are. It also shows how far they will go to influence the public.

called the terrorist "an iconic military leader." CNN's Christiane Amanpour gushed that he "was such a legendary figure."

NBC Nightly News' Richard Engel said the murderer "was no ordinary general" but "a national hero." He was "smart, charismatic, ruthless and bold," chirped Engel, and "there was talk" that he "might be a future president or perhaps a supreme leader."

CNN's Fareed Zakaria eulogized, "It's difficult to convey how revered he is in Iran. Imagine the French Foreign Legion, at the height of the French empire. This guy is regarded in Iran as a completely heroic figure, personally very brave." CNN's Anderson Cooper agreed and then cluelessly compared Soleimani to Charles de Gaulle, who led the French Resistance against Nazi Germany and later was elected president of France.

Soleimani, keep in mind, was a loathsome terrorist who killed hundreds of U.S. soldiers and thousands of other people — men, women, and children — throughout the Middle East. He was morally equivalent to a Nazi, yet CNN was essentially lauding him.

Besides painting "iconic" images of the "inspirational" Soleimani, the liberal media also applauded the

Iranians who mourned their dead "military genius."

On *Good Morning America*, Jan. 5, ABC's Ian Pannell somberly reported, "This morning, thousands of mourners in the streets of Iran. Symbolic caskets aloft. Weeping and chanting, 'I am Soleimani.'"

Although many Iranians were forced by their fascistic government to attend the public mourning ceremonies, *CBS Evening News* reporter Elizabeth Palmer described the events as an "epic salute to Qasem Soleimani." Repeating propaganda, she declared, "This is not just a mourning procession, it's a political message designed to demonstrate that all Iranians are united in anger and in outrage against the United States."

Palmer put an Iranian woman on camera to threaten, "I just say the sentence for Donald Trump: you dig your grave." Palmer also paraphrased Soleimani's daughter, "Her father's death, she said, would bring dark days to America." Perhaps Palmer should be a spokeswoman for Iran.

The New York Times claimed, thanks to Trump, "the assassination appears to have solidified the hard-liners' grip on power…. But at least for now, Iran is united — in anger at the United States."

MSNBC's Chris Matthews was so smitten with the propaganda word "assassinate" he used it 60 times over four nights on *Hardball*. "We are in the assassination business again," he fretted. Matthews also referred to the dead terrorist as "beloved" five times.

The *NYT* also applauded Iran for showing "more restraint" than the United States. Reporter Rukmini Callimachi lectured that "one of the takeaways of the past week is that we actually saw, in my opinion, Iran act with perhaps more restraint than our own government."

Also, MSNBC's Ayman Mohyeldin claimed that a "colleague" told him "it's unimaginable to think in this day and age it would be the Iranians who are signaling that they want to de-escalate. They're being rational." Trump, he asserted, is exhibiting "unpredictability" and "irrationality."

Ignoring that many Iranians were forced by their fascistic government to attend the public mourning ceremonies, *CBS Evening News'* Elizabeth Palmer reports the events show "all Iranians are united in anger and in outrage against the United States."

To build sympathy and assign blame, CBS correspondent Holly Williams reports that Soleimani's enemies call him a "military genius" and that the U.S. has "stripped Iran of an inspirational military leader."

MSNBC's Chris Matthews referred to psychotic terrorist Soleimani as "beloved" five times in four nights and used the word "assassinate" a whopping 60 times.

The Iranians retaliated on Jan. 8, dropping several missiles on U.S. bases. Reportedly, no one was killed. During the attack, however, the "rational" Iranians shot down a Ukrainian airliner taking off from Tehran, killing all 176 people on board. For three days, the Iranian government lied, claiming it did not shoot down the plane. Iran now claims it was an "accident."

For the liberal media, this terrible event was Trump's fault. CNN's Alisyn Camerota asserted, "I think it's fair to say this would not have happened if there were not tensions between the U.S. and Iran." MSNBC's Joy Reid repeated Iranian claims that "the accident was the result of a human error caused by U.S. adventurism." Had Trump not killed Soleimani, railed *The View*'s Whoopi Goldberg, "that Ukrainian plane would still be alive, the people on that plane."

The AP claimed that the drone attack on Soleimani "had rippled outward until dozens of Iranian-Canadians [on the airplane] and dozens of Iranian students studying in Canada, were dead." AP then quoted a Canadian father, "This is insane. … One man [Trump], and only one, is responsible for those deaths. And he will never face consequences for them."

That's not rational and that's not true. But it is how the liberal media want people to view the United States and President Trump. In the press' bent mind, Trump is the enemy, not the psychotic terrorists who kill American soldiers and not the fascists in Iran who bankroll them. It's fiendishly anti-American.

The MRC fights against that liberal media bias 24/7. You can help us in this mission by making a donation to our non-profit organization. Use the reply card and postage-paid envelope enclosed with this newsletter to send your most generous gift today. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

L. Brent Bozell III
Founder and President

Liberal Media Blame President Trump for 'Outrage' in 2019

As documented in a new MRC analysis, the liberal media are using the word "outrage" more and more often in political news stories to paint President Trump and Republicans in a negative light. In 2019, the study shows, Trump and the GOP sparked more "outrage" than child abuse, sexual assault, racism, and even police brutality in the evening news reports by ABC, CBS, and NBC.

The word "outrage" was used 229 times by the evening network news shows in 2019. Despite the wars, crime, and other horrors in the world, the networks noted "outrage" in 64 political stories.

In 51 instances, or 80% of all political coverage, the networks cited "outrage" in stories involving Trump and Republicans.

In just five stories, or 8% of all political coverage, the networks tied "outrage" to Democrats.

For contrast, ABC, CBS, and NBC mentioned "outrage" only 14 times in reference to rape, sexual assault, and harassment. This suggests that Trump and the GOP were over three times more outrageous than rape in 2019.

In stories about child abuse, outrage was noted in 25 instances and in stories about racism and bigotry, it was mentioned 28 times — still less often than in the Trump reports.

For stories on police brutality, "outrage" was noted 45 times, which is also still less than the 51 mentions for Trump and the GOP.

In the networks' stories on abortion, "outrage" was never reported. The nets even failed to use the term when a deceased abortion doctor's family found more than 2,200 fetal remains in his home.

Regardless of whether anyone at ABC, CBS, or NBC actually believes that Trump and the GOP are three times as outrageous as rape, or twice as outrageous as child abuse, their reporting in 2019 nonetheless suggests that this is the case. Also, because loaded terms like "outrage" are subjective, these networks can add a liberal spin to their coverage without ever making a false claim. For more details, visit NewsBusters.com.

What Outraged the Media in 2019

News Stories Using the Term "Outrage" on ABC, CBS, and NBC Evening News Broadcasts, Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2019

Politics	64
Republicans	51
Democrats	5
Other	8
Police Brutality	45
Racism/Bigotry	28
Child Abuse	25
Rape/Sexual Assault	14
Murder of Police	1
Abortion	0

Source: Media Research Center - 2020

Bits & Pieces

What Economy?

Despite the stellar economy — the greatest in our lifetime, according to CNBC's Jim Cramer — the liberal media have downplayed and censored this excellent news to keep President Trump from getting any credit. An MRC analysis shows that between Sept. 24, 2019 and Jan. 1, 2020, the evening news on ABC, CBS, and NBC presented *only nine minutes* of combined coverage on the economy — out of a total of 1,098 minutes!

That's less than 1% of the entire evening news coverage by the networks concerning jobs, trade, the stock market, wage increases, and record low unemployment. For comparison, they broadcast nearly 850 minutes of news about the House impeachment vote. A strong economy and median household income now at $66,000 (from $61,000 in 2017), means hard-working families are much better off. That's bad news for the liberals and explains why ABC, CBS, and NBC don't want to report it.
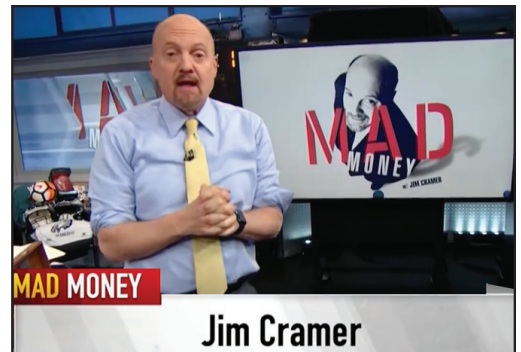
Although most of the liberal media downplayed or censored the good news about the U.S. economy, CNBC's Jim Kramer noted that this economy is the greatest in our lifetime.

MSNBC's Mika Brzezinski strongly implies that President Trump is blackmailing GOP Sens. Lindsey Graham and Marco Rubio. This is the same Brzezinski who pushed the "Russia collusion" hoax for two-plus years.

Blackmail?

Without a shred of evidence, MSNBC's Mika Brzezinski strongly implied that President Trump was blackmailing Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) and Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) into saying positive things about him. While discussing the senators' encouraging remarks on *Morning Joe* about Trump's decision to eliminate Iranian terrorist Qasem Soleimani, Mika said in reference to Graham, "What's he got on ya?"

She then explained, "In this case, you just have to wonder about Trump's patterns. Very vintage Trump is to dig up dirt on people, or exchange some sort of favor, and he has them under his thumb to say things that are ridiculous. To say things like, that was the best [military] briefing I've ever seen in my life. You have to wonder if that's the case here."
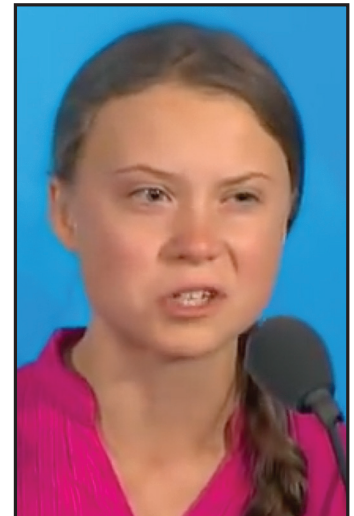
With all that wondering, next thing you know Mika will be claiming Russia has dirt on Trump and he's colluding with them to rig the election ... oh, wait.

Shh!

Comedian Ricky Gervais, who hosted the Golden Globes this year, stole the show with blistering quips about the superficiality and liberal hypocrisy of Hollywood. Consequently, the liberal morning network news programs gave his remarks scant coverage. *CBS This Morning* ran seven seconds of Gervais; NBC's *Today*, 15 seconds; and ABC's *Good Morning America*, 47 seconds.

Today, which reported on the *Golden Globes* for more than 12 minutes, did not play Gervais' most talked-about remark, that Hollywood is in "no position to lecture the public about anything. You know nothing about the real world. Most of you spent less time in school than Greta Thunberg." Also, NBC's Hoda Kotb whined, "He was like a wrecking ball through the audience." CBS's Kevin Frazier complained that Gervais "stepped over" the line.

The host of the *Golden Globes* says Hollywood stars "know nothing about the real world" because they have less schooling than climate-change activist Greta Thunberg (above).

If Gervais had skewered Trump or conservatives, as he often does, the liberal networks would have given him a Golden Globe.

Not a Joke!

Despite only playing in the NFL for six years and losing 30 of 58 games as a starting quarterback, former 49er Colin Kapernick is the Athlete of the Decade, according to *USA Today* Sports Editor Chris Korman. Kaepernick is "one of the most polarizing figures in a polarized decade, driving debate everywhere from television to Twitter to the proverbial diner counters and corner bars where America gathers," gushes Korman. Yet "let's not pretend that the culture remained unmoved (and, at the very least, people were compelled to state what they believe)."

Korman then applauds Megan Rapinoe for following Kaepernick's lead and "kneeling during the anthem," and gives kudos to other lefty athletes who mimicked Kaepernick.

To *USA Today* Sports Editor Chris Korman, "Athlete of the Decade" is more about politics than sports.
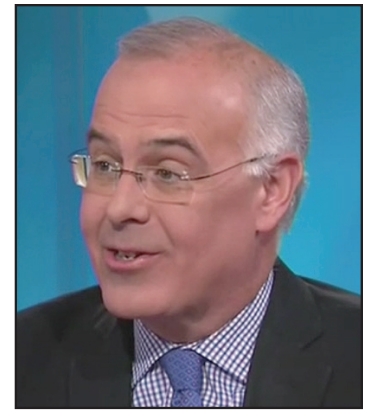
Forget actual achievement in sports — e.g., Tom Brady, Michael Phelps, Usain Bolt, Serena Williams — at the liberal *USA Today,* what matters is your politics.

Brooks' BS

In his Jan. 2 column for *The New York Times*, fake conservative David Brooks fantasizes a landslide defeat for Trump. "Looking back at the 2020s from our vantage point in 2030, the first great event was the complete destruction of Donald Trump's Republican Party," contends Brooks. "[T]here were roughly 300 state and federal elections during the Trump years and Republicans did horribly…. The 2020 vote was a continuation of that trend. Trump's landslide defeat left him humiliated, and the Republicans lost their Senate majority."

NYT columnist and fake conservative David Brooks fantasizes that Trump will lose in a landslide in 2020 – the same Brooks who claimed Trump would resign within a year of his 2016 win.

"Trump cried fraud and tried to whip up his followers, but they turned their backs," prattles Brooks. "Many temporarily retreated from political life, the way evangelical Christians did after the ignominy of the Scopes trial."

Brooks has an *NYT* column precisely because he writes such blather. For the record, after Trump's 2016 win, Brooks asserted, "the guy will probably resign or be impeached within a year. The future is closer than you think."

February 29 is Leap Day

This Leap Day, raise a glass and make a toast to the MRC's vision of the future: A day when the media *don't* **hop** on every conspiracy theory that comes along; journalists that *don't* **leap** to crazy conclusions; and a media culture in America where truth and liberty flourish.

Consider making this vision part of your legacy by updating your estate plans to include a gift to the Media Research Center. Contact Robert Croft, Vice President of Development, at (571) 267-3442 to find out how.

And here's some other news…

Did You Know…?

A new law, the SECURE Act, went into effect this year, and it may affect you if you have an IRA or 401K. Here's the change: If you turn 70 ½ in 2020, you do NOT have to take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA/401K.

The SECURE Act increases that age to 72 — and also eliminates the age cap on contributions to the accounts. This law doesn't affect the RMD requirements for people who turned 70 ½ in 2019 or any prior year. They must continue taking their RMD or face a 50% penalty.

Hollywood Gets a Lesson

Ricky Gervais, the perpetually snarky British comedian, set social media on fire after he mocked arrogant Hollywood in his opening monologue as host of the *Golden Globe Awards*.

"So if you do win an award tonight, don't use it as a platform to make a political speech," he said. **"You're in no position to lecture the public — about anything. You know nothing about the real world. Most of you spent less time in school than Greta Thunberg."**

Uh-oh. Gervais explained his approach was to mock the **"privileged egos in the room"** as if he was **"the bloke sitting at home who shouldn't have been invited."** It was too accurate to be funny. It stung. *Los Angeles Times* TV critic Lorraine Ali spoke for the Tinseltown crowd: **"The last thing anyone needed was for the smirking master of ceremonies to reprimand them for having hope."**

Here's what Ali doesn't get. It's not that celebrities are *dumber* than average, though so many undoubtedly are. But being an actor or director doesn't make you *smarter*. No one tends to look up their level of education when they pontificate; or, as would be more appropriate, their level of expertise on whatever issue is floating their boat.

Add to that the arrogance they internalize for being an "artist," with the added "humanity" of pretending to be all kinds of different people. Their "compassion" is expected to overrule any question about their knowledge.

Of course, Gervais couldn't stop the inevitable pompous political speeches, most notably actress Michelle Williams insisting she never would have arrived

The beauty of Ricky Gervais's monologue at the *Golden Globe Awards* demonstrated that humor is best when everyone is a target. But, of course, lefty Hollywood did not agree.

at her high station in Hollywood life without the ability to get an abortion.

Surprise, surprise! Williams stopped going to school at 15 — a nearly exact match for that Greta Thunberg joke.

The other passionate speaker of the night was Patricia Arquette, who decried our nation **"on the brink of war"** with **"a president tweeting out a threat of 52 bombs including cultural sites, young people risking their lives traveling across the world, people not knowing if bombs are going to drop on their kids' heads."** She urged everyone to vote (Democrat) in 2020.

Arquette ran away from home at 14 and never went to college. She has no expertise on foreign policy, national defense, or geopolitical thought.

Everything that followed the Gervais comedy routine in subsequent ways underlined his critique. Embarrassed by the Americans taking out Iranian terrorist mastermind Qasem Soleimani, Michael Moore obsequiously apologized to Iran — in Farsi.

Moore dropped out of the University of Michigan–Flint after his first year. One safely assumes his knowledge of Farsi doesn't go beyond those memorized words.

In the same week, Moore spoke on his podcast to actress and model Emily Ratajkowski, and they both professed their support for Bernie Sanders for President, because capitalism is the "enemy."

Ratajkowski attended UCLA for one year, then decided to model full-time.

When President Trump spoke to the nation about taking out Soleimani, comedian Kathy Griffin mocked him for mispronouncing the word "tolerated." Griffin tweeted **"This should be an exhibit in one of the articles of impeachment. They should just quietly add it as, y'know 'exhibit 1958542785' or something. #Trump #SniffyMcAdderall."** Trump isn't just dumb, he's on drugs.

Griffin never went to college. Her parents wanted her to go. She wanted to be famous instead.

Likewise, Rosie O'Donnell tweeted, with no capital letters, or basic punctuation: **"wake me in november — its just too much — cant Americans see he is high AF — cant pronounce 5th grade words … #RemoveAndIndictTrumpNOW".**

Rosie O'Donnell washed out of two colleges.

We're not saying everyone who didn't finish college is a dummy. We are saying these famous entertainers who act like America's Smartest should keep in mind how that joke can be turned around on them. As Ricky Gervais did.

MRC in the News

MRC.ORG • CNSNEWS.COM • NEWSBUSTERS.ORG • MRC CULTURE • MRC BUSINESS • MRCTV.ORG

Media Research Center experts are frequently interviewed on stories of national importance, reaching millions of Americans daily. They provide analysis and commentary on radio, TV, the Internet, social media, and in print. Some of the MRC's latest media appearances include the following:

Television

FBN
- *Trish Regan Primetime*, Jan. 2
- *Varney & Co.*, Dec. 12

FNC
- *The Five*, Dec. 30
- *Fox & Friends*, Jan. 4, 14
- *Hannity*, Jan. 3

OANN
- *Daily Ledger*, Dec. 23, 30, Jan. 2, 6, 9

NEWSMAX TV
- *Newsmax Now*, Dec. 23, 30, Jan. 2, 3, 6
- *America Talks Live*, Jan. 3

~ PARTIAL LISTING

Radio

Alan Nathan Show, Dec. 11, 12, 26, Jan. 2, 3, 8, 10
American Family Radio, Dec. 10, 11 (2)
Bill Martinez Show, Dec. 11, Jan. 8, 9, 10
Breitbart News Daily, SiriusXM, Jan. 6
Chosen Generation, Dec. 11, Jan. 8
Faune Riggin Show, Jan. 7
John Whitmer Show, Jan. 3
Larry O'Connor Show, Jan. 21
Legal Insurrection, Jan. 10
Main Street Radio Network, Jan. 6
Mark Levin Show, Dec. 16, 31, Jan. 7, 8, 20
Mike Hayes Show, Jan. 9
Phil Cowan Show, Jan. 7
Rush Limbaugh, Dec. 13, 16, 23, Jan. 6, 10, 8, 9, 20
KCOL, Denver, CO, Dec. 12, Jan. 7
KFAN, San Diego, CA, Dec. 31
KFMB, San Diego, CA, Dec. 11, Jan. 1, 8
KNSS, Wichita, KS, Jan. 10
KNTH, Houston, TX, Dec. 11, 23, 25, Jan. 6, 9
KTRH, Houston, TX, Dec. 11, Jan. 21
KUIK, Hillsboro, OR, Jan. 6
KURV, Rio Grande Valley, TX, Dec. 11
KVOR, Colorado Springs, CO, Dec. 11, 12, 31, Jan. 2, 7, 9
KWEL, Midland, TX, Dec. 30, Jan. 6
KZIM, Cape Girardeau, MO, Dec. 16, Jan. 7
WATR, Waterbury, CT, Jan. 10
WCBM, Baltimore, MD, Dec 31, Jan. 3
WFLA, Tampa Bay, FL, Dec. 4
WGMD, Lewes, DE, Dec. 30, Jan 6
WHBU, Anderson, IN, Jan. 6
WIBA, Madison, WI, Dec. 11
WIBC, Indianapolis, IN, Jan. 3
WICC, Bridgeport, CT, Jan. 3
WIND, Chicago, IL, Jan. 6
WISN, Milwaukee, WI, Dec. 30
WNJC, Washington Township, NJ, Jan. 6
WNTP, Philadelphia, PA, Jan. 9
WTKF, Morehead City, NC, Dec. 12, Jan. 2, 10
WTMA, Charleston, SC, Dec. 12
WYAB, Jackson, MS, Jan. 14
1140 AM Orlando, FL, Jan. 1, 8

~ PARTIAL LISTING

Print

Boston Herald, Dec. 16
Wall Street Journal, Jan. 21
Washington Examiner, Dec. 16, 23, 30, Jan. 6, 8
Washington Post, Jan. 7
Washington Times, Dec. 10, 15, 16, 18, 24, 26, Jan. 6

~ PARTIAL LISTING

Internet

@BretBaier, Jan. 20
@dBongino, Jan. 20
@dLoesch, Jan. 20
@realDonaldTrump, Dec. 20
@TheWhiteHouse, Jan. 20
Advocate, Dec. 12
American Family News, Jan. 10
America's Voice News, Jan. 2
AZ Big Media, Jan. 21
BizPac Review, Jan. 6, 9
Breitbart News, Dec. 12, 23, 27
CBN News, Dec. 10, 30
Columbia Journalism Review, Jan. 13
Conservative HQ, Dec. 11
Daily Caller, Dec. 10, 19, Jan. 20
Daily Mail, Jan. 9
Daily Wire, Dec. 24, 30, Jan. 8
DrudgeReport Dec. 12, 17
Epoch Times, Dec. 10, Jan. 7
Erie News Now, Jan. 1
Fox News, Dec. 10, 11, 12, 16, 18, 19, 24, 29, 31, Jan. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 15
Fox Wilmington, Jan. 10
Frontiers of Freedom, Jan. 8
GOPUSA, Jan. 7
Hot Air, Dec. 11
Journal Review, Jan. 21
Lewiston Sun Journal, Jan. 19
Liberty Nation, Dec. 4
LifeSite News, Jan. 2, 7
Mediaite, Dec. 19, Jan. 1, 7
Michigan News, Jan. 20
MovieWeb, Jan. 2
National Post, Jan. 6
Neal Ashbury Made in America, Jan. 2
Newsmax, Dec. 17, 19,
NOQ Report, Jan. 8, 10
One News Now, Dec. 12, 13, Jan. 6
Patriot Post, Dec. 11, 13, 18, 25, Jan. 1, 8, 10
Real Clear Politics, Jan. 6, 19
Slate, Jan. 6
Spectator USA, Dec. 9
Stamford Advocate, Jan. 7
The Blaze, Dec. 29
The Times and Democrat, Jan. 8
Times Union, Jan. 5
Townhall, Dec. 10, 31, Jan. 8, 21
Washington Examiner, Dec. 30, Jan. 6, 8, 20
Washington Free Beacon, Dec. 29
World Tribune, Jan. 1, 5
Yahoo! News, Jan. 5.

~ PARTIAL LISTING
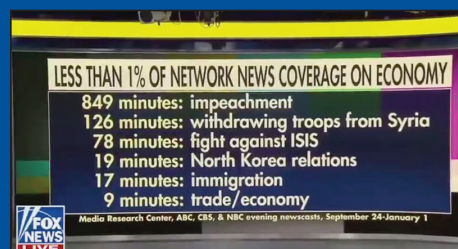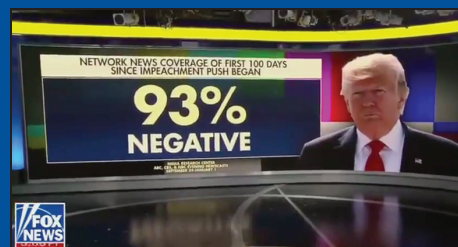
Fox & Friends, Jan. 4, highlighted the MRC NewsBusters report documenting that the coverage of President Trump by the evening news at ABC, CBS, and NBC was 93% negative between September and January, and was overwhelmingly focused on impeachment.
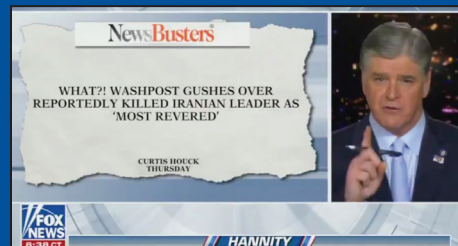
On his FNC program, Sean Hannity cites a NewsBusters article revealing how the *Washington Post* lauded global terrorist Qasem Soleimani as Iran's "most revered military leader." This is the same *Post* that described terrorist Abu Bakar al-Baghdadi as an "austere religious scholar."
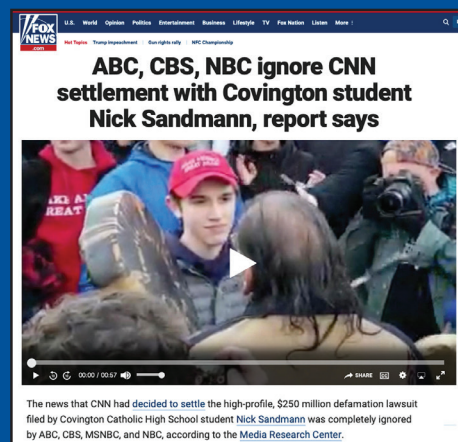
A Fox News Channel report notes the MRC's research documenting that ABC, CBS, NBC, and MSNBC completely ignored the defamation-lawsuit settlement in favor of Nick Sandmann, who sued CNN for $250 million after it smeared him following the 2019 March for Life. Sandmann has other lawsuits in the legal pipeline against NBC, the *Washington Post*, and numerous liberal reporters.

MRC Action Kicks Off the New Year!

This January, MRC ACTION kicked off its first grassroots campaign of 2020: *The Media Mob vs. Virginia Second Amendment Supporters*.

The initial campaign email stated: "The Democrat-controlled Virginia Legislature has filed 72 bills to attack the inherent right of citizens to keep and bear arms — a right for which the Founders gave their lives and fortunes. And, wherever you are in America, you could be next." The fact is, nearly 30% of Virginians own a gun. If the Virginia legislature can change the law in Virginia (where the MRC is headquartered), then it can happen anywhere! And we know lefist media figures salivate at gun rights being crushed anywhere and everywhere.

mrcAction™
AMERICA'S MEDIA WATCHDOG

Supporters of 2A know this is a crucial issue in Virginia, so they organized a rally outside the Virginia State Capitol on January 20th. Ahead of this date, we did our part and asked the MRC ACTION Grassroots Army to help make certain media outlets were on notice that we expect the media to cover the issue fairly. By the end of the campaign, MRC ACTION members from *every* state but Hawaii and North Dakota participated — generating 3,073 contacts to the pre-targeted media outlets.

Supporters jumped into action and emailed media figures, Tweeted to them, and called their offices to voice their opinion. For this, THANK YOU!

We love seeing MRC ACTION supporters share their thoughts! Be sure to stay tuned for the next campaign

MINIBITS

■ Director **Ron Howard** — little Opie on the *Andy Griffith Show* years ago — views President Trump as a "self-serving, dishonest, morally bankrupt ego maniac who doesn't care about anything or anyone but his Fame & bank account & is hustling the US." ■ MSNBC's **Hillary Leverett** complains that in striking against Iranian-backed terrorists in Iraq, Trump is "attacking war heroes" and acting like an "occupier." ■ A *USA Today* commentary praised concealed-carrying Jack Wilson for stopping a shooter at a Texas church but frets that "six other parishioners appeared to draw their guns — and that's terrifying." ■ The *New York Times*'s **Jeremy Peters** states there is a correlation between "what conservative radio hosts discuss, denigrate immigrants" and violence, adding that the El Paso shooter's manifesto "was often word-for-word what you would hear on some prime time Fox News program." ■ *The New York Times*'s **Farnaz Fassihi** gushes that Iranian terrorist Qasem Soleimani is "celebrated as a national hero but also a religious martyr and a saint" while her colleague Michael Barbaro describes the national outpouring for the terrorist as similar to that for "Martin Luther King." ■ NBC's **Seth Meyers** criticized the coverage of Iran, complaining that "Fox News decided to turn to their stable of lumpy white guys who have been wrong about everything, like Lindsey Graham ... and serial liars Ari Fleischer and Karl Rove." ■ Singer and activist **Linda Ronstadt** tells CNN that America today is just like Nazi Germany, "It's exactly the same. ... I said that [Trump's] going to be like Hitler, and Mexicans are going to be the new Jews. And sure enough, that's what he delivered."

Making sure not to leave any lefty smears on the cutting room floor, CNN aired singer Linda Rondstadt's description of America as Nazi Germany, with Trump as Hitler and Mexicans as the "new Jews."