

NEWS RELEASE



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For immediate release

Contacts:

Tom Williams, APR | tomwilliams@mpt.org | 410-581-4031

Casey Roberts | croberts@nevinspr.com | 410-568-8807

MEDIA ADVISORY

Maryland Public Television marks opening of major production studio expansion on April 28

- WHAT:** Media are invited to cover ceremonies and a ribbon-cutting to mark the opening of **The Irene and Edward H. Kaplan Production Studio** at Maryland Public Television (MPT). The event is the culmination of a 20-month project making the now 8,480 sq. ft. studio among the largest in the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) system and the tri-state region (MD/VA/DE).
- WHEN:** **11 a.m.** - inauguration of new flagpoles and raising of the colors
11:30 a.m. - ribbon-cutting ceremony
Event will conclude by noon.
- WHERE:** Maryland Public Television
11767 Owings Mills Blvd., Owings Mills, MD 21117
- WHO:** The former "Studio A" at MPT is being renamed for **Irene & Edward H. Kaplan**, to honor and thank the Montgomery County residents for their significant involvement in and support of MPT and its mission over many decades. Edward H. Kaplan is chairman of MPT's governing body, the Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission.
Among individuals scheduled to participate:
- MPT President & CEO Larry D. Unger
 - Baltimore County Executive John Olszewski
 - Maryland Secretary of General Services Ellington E. Churchill, Jr.
 - America's Public Television Stations President & CEO Patrick Butler
 - Director, The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration, Major General Peter M. Aylward (Retired)
 - American Public Television President & CEO Cynthia Fenneman
 - Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission Vice Chairman Richard J. Bodorff
 - Vietnam Veterans of America, Baltimore Chapter 451 & NFL Ravens Veterans Honor Guard

BACKGROUND: MPT's "Studio A" first opened in 1969, when the statewide public TV network opened its headquarters in Owings Mills, Maryland. The 4,800 sq. ft. studio served as MPT's primary production space for 50 years.

With funding from the State of Maryland, MPT embarked on a \$9.54 million project to significantly expand and upgrade the studio and adjoining plaza. The groundbreaking for the project took place at the celebration marking MPT's 50th anniversary on June 28, 2019. Work commenced in March 2020.

The renamed production studio space is now 75% larger – at 8,480 sq. ft. – and boasts the latest technology and environmental efficiencies. It offers a 16' x 19' x 20' green screen cyclorama wall; 12' x 14' loading doors directly into the studio; and a portable theater seating structure for up to 148 studio guests. The building has an additional 3,479 sq. ft. of space to accommodate two dressing rooms, a green room, restrooms, mechanical room, and storage. The entire facility is ADA-compliant and also earned LEED Silver Certification.

Note: MPT is a nine-year Commemorative Partner of The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration. MPT mounted a multi-year initiative – ***MPT Salutes Vietnam Veterans*** – culminating in 2016, to honor and welcome home the region's Vietnam War veterans. The Commemoration flag is one of four being flown at the 11 a.m. ceremony, and the national director of the Commemoration will be on hand.

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