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Subseries: Chron Files, 1989-1993

OA/ID Number: 13539
Folder ID Number: 13539-007

Folder Title:
National Medal of Arts Luncheon 9/10/90 [OA 5376]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	26	16	4	3

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 4, 1990

90 SEP 6 09:09

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: EDWARD McNALLY

SUBJECT: NATIONAL MEDAL OF THE ARTS LUNCHEON

AA for CW
EMW

OK with changes!
07

9-9

I. SUMMARY

On Monday, Sept. 10, at 11:45 a.m., you will give brief remarks and then participate in a ceremony to award the National Medal of the Arts. The ceremony will take place in the East Room; afterwards, you will host a luncheon in the State Dining Room.

II. DISCUSSION

The remarks (6 minutes, on cards) praise each of the award winners as trailblazers in their field, who sought, in Mrs. Bush's words, "their own true colors." Mrs. Bush will assist in presenting the awards.

McNally/Simon
Sept. 6, 1990
Draft Four (E:ARTS)

~~PRESIDENTIAL~~ ~~STATE~~ ~~REMARKS:~~ ~~5~~ NATIONAL MEDAL OF THE ARTS LUNCHEON
THE EAST ROOM
MONDAY, SEPT. 10, 1990, 11:45 A.M.

I'm happy to have John Frohnmayer, -- and, of course, Barbara
-- up here to help me out. And thanks especially to our honored
guests, the artists and the patrons of a special American
tradition who grace us with their presence this afternoon.
Welcome to the White House, and welcome to the sixth annual
presentation of the National Medal of the Arts. \\\

Last year, this luncheon was held the week before
Thanksgiving -- and was delayed when I got held up in the Rose
Garden, doing a "photo op" with the "National Turkey." \\\

Barbara and I awarded medals that day to some of the
artistic giants of our time -- Alfred Eisenstaedt, John Updike,
Katherine Dunham, and Dizzy Gillespie, among others. \ And
with all that assembled talent, guess which one was pictured
standing next to me on the news that night? \\\ The National
Turkey. \\\ We've done a little better scheduling this year,
Helsinki notwithstanding... \\\

The people we honor today have earned a collection of awards
with names that have become the world's touchstones of excellence
-- names like Grammy and Oscar and Tony, the Pulitzer prize and
the Kennedy Center Honors -- a collection of awards that would
just about fill its own Smithsonian. But where most of these
awards were aimed at honoring individual works, today we gather
to salute the full body of their work, their contributions to the

n, and to life in the twentieth century.
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 and representing many generations of American
 and alongside the artists who helped define
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 but one of the cultural giants of the world.

Most had humble beginnings. I think of Jessica Tandy,
 sewing her own costumes in a backroom theatre in Soho. Or B.B.
 King, touring backstreet bars and dance halls, on the road for 20
 years before most Americans would ever hear his name. Even their
 hometown names read like the very tapestry of America itself:
 Forestville, New York. Centralia [sen-TRAIL-ya], Washington.
 Itta Bena [BEE-na], Mississippi. Brooklyn and Atlantic City.

Three were foreign-born, drawn here by freedom and
 opportunity, seeking not to enrich themselves -- but to enrich
 our culture. And today, they are Americans all, striving in the
 creation of beauty.

✓ Taken together, today's honorees represent an apparently
 inexhaustible reserve of creativity, one that has often defied
 categorization. But there are at least two characteristics, I
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 authentic pioneer who literally helped to shape ^{his, her} their art form.
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 particular art form, often crossing over to combine distinct
 mediums in new and very different ways.

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Each is
singular
 please
 fix

with the multi-disciplinary approach of landscape architect Ian McHarg; with New York legends like George Abbott and Beverly Sills, who've thrilled audiences with their performances onstage -- and with their leadership behind the scenes; or with the love and magic of Hume Cronyn and Jessica Tandy, whose creations seem

to float effortlessly from stage to screen and back again.

Conroy I tell you a frustration of mine. I think Barbara Bush is second only to Hume Cronyn with Hume Cronyn

But you also see it in painter Jasper Johns' collaborative efforts with choreographer Merce Cunningham; in the visual arts, where Frederick Douglass was brought to new life beneath the brush of Jacob Lawrence; and in the cries and hollers and work songs of field hands who labored in another time, once again heard rising on the wind through the guitar of B.B. King.

Speaking at Wellesley back in June, Barbara urged young Americans to go out and seek their own true colors. That's exactly what you've done. You have created sights and sounds and characters, crafted anew within the human imagination, and in doing so, enriched the colors on the canvas of our national life. And that's why America continues to need and want -- and appreciate -- your creativity, your talent and your diversity.

Indeed, it is your efforts in the arts and the humanities -- in the realm of the spirit -- that distinguish America as a world leader, rather than as merely a world power. I am proud that -- as a people, and as a nation -- we continue to support the arts, both through public agencies and through private champions of the arts, patrons like Harris and Carroll Masterson,

of my own hometown of Houston, Southwestern Bell, of St. Louis,
and Washington's own David Lloyd Kreeger.

We salute you for the joy you have given to Americans of
many ages. Thank you. Congratulations. And God bless the
United States of America.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 09/07/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: ----

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL MEDAL OF THE ARTS LUNCHEON
(09/06 draft 4)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FIRESTONE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER ROSE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

The attached has been forwarded to the President.

RESPONSE:

James W. Cicconi
 Assistant to the President
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
 Ext. 2702

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 4, 1990

30 SEP 6 09:10

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT
THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *AA for CW*
FROM: EDWARD McNALLY *EM*
SUBJECT: NATIONAL MEDAL OF THE ARTS LUNCHEON

I. SUMMARY

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McNally/Simon
Sept. 6, 1990
Draft Four (E:ARTS)

90 SEP 6 P4: 51
PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL MEDAL OF THE ARTS LUNCHEON
THE EAST ROOM
MONDAY, SEPT. 10, 1990, 11:45 A.M.

I'm happy to have John Frohnmayer -- and, of course, Barbara -- up here to help me out. And thanks especially to our honored guests, the artists and the patrons of a special American tradition who grace us with their presence this afternoon. Welcome to the White House, and welcome to the sixth annual presentation of the National Medal of the Arts. \\\

Last year, this luncheon was held the week before Thanksgiving -- and was delayed when I got held up in the Rose Garden, doing a "photo op" with the "National Turkey." \\\

Barbara and I awarded medals that day to some of the artistic giants of our time -- Alfred Eisenstaedt, John Updike, Katherine Dunham, and Dizzy Gillespie, among others. \ And with all that assembled talent, guess which one was pictured standing next to me on the news that night? \\\ The National Turkey. \\\ We've done a little better scheduling this year, Helsinki notwithstanding... \\\

The people we honor today have earned a collection of awards with names that have become the world's touchstones of excellence -- names like Grammy and Oscar and Tony, the Pulitzer prize and the Kennedy Center Honors -- a collection of awards that would just about fill its own Smithsonian. But where most of these awards were aimed at honoring individual works, today we gather to salute the full body of their work, their contributions to the

arts, to the Nation, and to life in the twentieth century.

Embracing an era that reaches back as far as George Abbott's birth in 1887 -- and representing many generations of American talent -- they stand alongside the artists who helped define America -- no longer just another sprawling industrial nation -- but one of the cultural giants of the world.

Most had humble beginnings. I think of Jessica Tandy, sewing her own costumes in a backroom theatre in Soho. Or B.B. King, touring backstreet bars and dance halls, on the road for 20 years before most Americans would ever hear his name. Even their hometown names read like the very tapestry of America itself: Forestville, New York. Centralia [sen-TRAIL-ya], Washington. Itta Bena [BEE-na], Mississippi. Brooklyn and Atlantic City.

Three were foreign-born, drawn here by freedom and opportunity, seeking not to enrich themselves -- but to enrich our culture. And today, they are Americans all, striving in the creation of beauty.

Taken together, today's honorees represent an apparently inexhaustible reserve of creativity, one that has often defied categorization. But there are at least two characteristics, I believe, that can apply to each. Each is a trailblazer, an authentic pioneer who literally helped to shape their art form. And each is an artist who pressed the very limits of their particular art form, often crossing over to combine distinct mediums in new and very different ways.

Sometimes that cross-fertilization is self-evident, such as

with the multi-disciplinary approach of landscape architect Ian McHarg; with New York legends like George Abbott and Beverly Sills, who've thrilled audiences with their performances onstage -- and with their leadership behind the scenes; or with the love and magic of Hume Cronyn and Jessica Tandy, whose creations seem to float effortlessly from stage to screen and back again.

But you also see it in painter Jasper Johns' collaborative efforts with choreographer Merce Cunningham; in the visual arts, where Frederick Douglass was brought to new life beneath the brush of Jacob Lawrence; and in the cries and hollers and work songs of field hands who labored in another time, once again heard rising on the wind through the guitar of B.B. King.

Speaking at Wellesley back in June, Barbara urged young Americans to go out and seek their own true colors. That's exactly what you've done. You have created sights and sounds and characters, crafted anew within the human imagination, and in doing so, enriched the colors on the canvas of our national life. And that's why America continues to need and want -- and appreciate -- your creativity, your talent and your diversity.

Indeed, it is your efforts in the arts and the humanities -- in the realm of the spirit -- that distinguish America as a world leader, rather than as merely a world power. I am proud that -- as a people, and as a nation -- we continue to support the arts, both through public agencies and through private champions of the arts, patrons like Harris and Carroll Masterson,

of my own hometown of Houston, Southwestern Bell, of St. Louis,
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NATIONAL MEDAL OF THE ARTS LUNCHEON \ THE EAST ROOM
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1990 \ 11:45 A.M.

I'M HAPPY TO HAVE JOHN FROHNMAYER HERE, AND HAPPY TO HAVE JOHN HEADING THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS. AND, OF COURSE, BARBARA -- UP HERE TO HELP ME OUT. ALSO, I WANT TO WELCOME MY NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES: DON HALL.

AND THANKS ESPECIALLY TO OUR HONORED GUESTS, THE ARTISTS AND THE PATRONS OF A SPECIAL AMERICAN TRADITION WHO GRACE US WITH THEIR PRESENCE TODAY.

- 2 -

WELCOME TO THE WHITE HOUSE, AND WELCOME TO THE SIXTH ANNUAL PRESENTATION OF THE NATIONAL MEDAL OF THE ARTS.

\\

LAST YEAR, THIS LUNCHEON WAS HELD THE WEEK BEFORE THANKSGIVING -- AND WAS DELAYED WHEN I GOT HELD UP IN THE ROSE GARDEN, DOING A "PHOTO OP" WITH THE "NATIONAL TURKEY." \\\

BARBARA AND I AWARDED MEDALS THAT DAY TO SOME OF THE ARTISTIC GIANTS OF OUR TIME -- ALFRED EISENSTAEDT, JOHN UPDIKE, KATHERINE DUNHAM, AND DIZZY GILLESPIE, AMONG OTHERS. \\ AND WITH ALL THAT ASSEMBLED TALENT, GUESS WHICH ONE WAS PICTURED STANDING NEXT TO ME ON THE NEWS THAT NIGHT? \\ \\ THE NATIONAL TURKEY. \\ \\ \\ WE'VE DONE A LITTLE BETTER SCHEDULING THIS YEAR, HELSINKI NOTWITHSTANDING... \\ \\ \\

THE PEOPLE WE HONOR TODAY HAVE EARNED A COLLECTION OF AWARDS WITH NAMES THAT HAVE BECOME THE WORLD'S TOUCHSTONES OF EXCELLENCE -- NAMES LIKE GRAMMY AND OSCAR AND TONY, THE PULITZER PRIZE AND THE KENNEDY CENTER HONORS -- A COLLECTION OF AWARDS THAT WOULD JUST ABOUT FILL ITS OWN SMITHSONIAN. BUT WHERE MOST OF THESE AWARDS WERE AIMED AT HONORING INDIVIDUAL WORKS, TODAY WE GATHER TO SALUTE THE FULL BODY OF THEIR WORK, THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ARTS, TO THE NATION, AND TO LIFE IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

EMBRACING AN ERA THAT REACHES BACK AS FAR AS GEORGE ABBOTT'S BIRTH IN 1887 -- AND REPRESENTING MANY GENERATIONS OF AMERICAN TALENT -- THEY STAND ALONGSIDE THE ARTISTS WHO HELPED DEFINE AMERICA -- NO LONGER JUST ANOTHER SPRAWLING INDUSTRIAL NATION --BUT ONE OF THE CULTURAL GIANTS OF THE WORLD.

MOST HAD HUMBLE BEGINNINGS. I THINK OF JESSICA TANDY, SEWING HER OWN COSTUMES IN A BACKROOM THEATRE IN SOHO.

OR B.B. KING, TOURING BACKSTREET BARS AND DANCE HALLS, ON THE ROAD FOR 20 YEARS BEFORE MOST AMERICANS WOULD EVER HEAR HIS NAME. EVEN THEIR HOMETOWN NAMES READ LIKE THE VERY TAPESTRY OF AMERICA ITSELF: FORESTVILLE, NEW YORK. CENTRALIA [SEN-TRAIL-YA], WASHINGTON. ITTA BENA [BEE-NA], MISSISSIPPI. BROOKLYN AND ATLANTIC CITY.

THREE WERE FOREIGN-BORN, DRAWN HERE BY FREEDOM AND OPPORTUNITY, SEEKING NOT TO ENRICH THEMSELVES -- BUT TO ENRICH OUR CULTURE. AND TODAY, THEY ARE AMERICANS ALL, STRIVING IN THE CREATION OF BEAUTY.

TAKEN TOGETHER, TODAY'S HONOREES REPRESENT AN APPARENTLY INEXHAUSTIBLE RESERVE OF CREATIVITY, ONE THAT HAS OFTEN DEFIED CATEGORIZATION. BUT THERE ARE AT LEAST TWO CHARACTERISTICS, I BELIEVE, THAT CAN APPLY TO EACH. EACH IS A TRAILBLAZER, AN AUTHENTIC PIONEER WHO LITERALLY HELPED TO SHAPE HIS OR HER ART FORM.

AND EACH IS AN ARTIST WHO PRESSED THE VERY LIMITS OF HIS OR HER PARTICULAR ART FORM, OFTEN CROSSING OVER TO COMBINE DISTINCT MEDIUMS IN NEW AND VERY DIFFERENT WAYS.

SOMETIMES THAT CROSS-FERTILIZATION IS SELF-EVIDENT, SUCH AS WITH THE MULTI-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT IAN MCHARG; WITH NEW YORK LEGENDS LIKE GEORGE ABBOTT AND BEVERLY SILLS, WHO'VE THRILLED AUDIENCES WITH THEIR PERFORMANCES ONSTAGE -- AND WITH THEIR LEADERSHIP BEHIND THE SCENES; OR WITH THE LOVE AND MAGIC OF HUME CRONYN AND JESSICA TANDY, WHOSE CREATIONS SEEM TO FLOAT EFFORTLESSLY FROM STAGE TO SCREEN AND BACK AGAIN.

[[MAY I TELL YOU A FRUSTRATION OF MINE. I THINK BARBARA BUSH IS SECRETLY IN LOVE WITH HUME CRONYN.]]

BUT YOU ALSO SEE IT IN PAINTER JASPER JOHNS' COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS WITH CHOREOGRAPHER MERCE CUNNINGHAM; IN THE VISUAL ARTS, WHERE FREDERICK DOUGLASS WAS BROUGHT TO NEW LIFE BENEATH THE BRUSH OF JACOB LAWRENCE;

AND IN THE CRIES AND HOLLERS AND WORK SONGS OF FIELD HANDS WHO LABORED IN ANOTHER TIME, ONCE AGAIN HEARD RISING ON THE WIND THROUGH THE GUITAR OF B.B. KING.

SPEAKING AT WELLESLEY BACK IN JUNE, BARBARA URGED YOUNG AMERICANS TO GO OUT AND SEEK THEIR OWN TRUE COLORS. THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT YOU'VE DONE. YOU HAVE CREATED SIGHTS AND SOUNDS AND CHARACTERS, CRAFTED ANEW WITHIN THE HUMAN IMAGINATION, AND IN DOING SO, ENRICHED THE COLORS ON THE CANVAS OF OUR NATIONAL LIFE.

AND THAT'S WHY AMERICA CONTINUES TO NEED AND WANT -- AND APPRECIATE -- YOUR CREATIVITY, YOUR TALENT AND YOUR DIVERSITY.

INDEED, IT IS YOUR EFFORTS IN THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES -- IN THE REALM OF THE SPIRIT -- THAT DISTINGUISH AMERICA AS A WORLD LEADER, RATHER THAN AS MERELY A WORLD POWER.

- 13 -

I AM PROUD THAT -- AS A PEOPLE, AND AS A NATION -- WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE ARTS, BOTH THROUGH PUBLIC AGENCIES AND THROUGH PRIVATE CHAMPIONS OF THE ARTS, PATRONS LIKE HARRIS AND CARROLL MASTERSON, OF MY OWN HOMETOWN OF HOUSTON; SOUTHWESTERN BELL, OF ST. LOUIS; AND WASHINGTON'S OWN DAVID LLOYD KREEGER.

WE SALUTE YOU FOR THE JOY YOU HAVE GIVEN TO AMERICANS OF MANY AGES. THANK YOU. CONGRATULATIONS. AND GOD BLESS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

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McNally/Simon
Sept. 6, 1990
Draft Four (E:ARTS)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL MEDAL OF THE ARTS LUNCHEON
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Embracing an era that reaches back as far as George Abbott's birth in 1887 -- and representing many generations of American talent -- they stand alongside the artists who helped define America -- no longer just another sprawling industrial nation -- but one of the cultural giants of the world.

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September 4, 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *AS for CW*

FROM: EDWARD McNALLY *EM*

SUBJECT: NATIONAL MEDAL OF THE ARTS LUNCHEON

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McNally/Simon
Sept. 5, 1990
Draft Three (E:ARTS)

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Four were foreign-born, from Clydebank, Scotland to a Polish village, then a part of the Czar's empire. They were drawn here by freedom, seeking not to enrich themselves -- but to enrich our culture. **And today, they are Americans all, striving in the creation of beauty.**

Taken together, today's honorees represent an apparently inexhaustible reserve of creativity, one that has often defied categorization. But there are at least two characteristics, I believe, that can apply to each. Each is a trailblazer, an authentic pioneer who literally helped to shape their art form. And each is an artist who pressed the very limits of their particular art form, often crossing over to combine distinct mediums in new and very different ways.

Sometimes that cross-fertilization is self-evident, such as with the multi-disciplinary approach of landscape architect Ian McHarg; with Broadway legends like George Abbott, who's served variously as actor, playwright, and director; or with the love and magic of Hume Cronyn and Jessica Tandy, whose creations seem to float effortlessly from stage to screen and back again.

But you also see it in painter Jasper Johns' collaborative efforts with choreographer Merce Cunningham; in the film Enemies: A Love Story, where Isaac Singer's novel found a new and even larger audience; in literary characters like the Scarlet Letter's Hester Prynne, etched large on the screen by Lillian Gish; in the visual arts, where Frederick Douglass was brought to new life beneath the brush of Jacob Lawrence; and in the cries and hollers and work songs of field hands who labored in another time, once again heard rising on the wind through the guitar of B.B. King.

Speaking at Wellesley back in June, Barbara urged young Americans to go out and seek their own true colors. That's exactly what you've done. **You have created sights and sounds and characters, crafted anew within the human imagination, and in doing so, enriched the colors on the canvas of our national life.** And that's why America continues to need and want -- and appreciate -- your creativity, your talent and your diversity.

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the arts, both through public agencies and through private champions of the arts, patrons like Harris and Carroll Masterson, of my own hometown of Houston, and Southwestern Bell, of St. Louis.

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DATE: 08/29/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 09/04 4:00 p.m.

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL MEDAL OF THE ARTS LUNCHEON
(08/29 draft two)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>PINKERTON</u> <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>FIRESTONE</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>PORTER ROSE</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide any comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston by 4:00 pm on Tuesday, September 4th, with a copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

James W. Cicconi
 Assistant to the President
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
 Ext. 2702

McNally/Simon
August 29, 1990
Draft Two (E:ARTS)

1990 AUG 29 PM 4: 59

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL MEDAL OF THE ARTS LUNCHEON
THE EAST ROOM

MONDAY, SEPT. 10, 1990, 11:45 A.M.

I'm happy to have
~~Thank you,~~ John ((FROHNMAYER)) --¹ *and, of course, Barbara, up here to help me out.* and thanks especially to

our honored guests, the artists and the patrons of a special American tradition who grace us with their presence this afternoon. **Welcome to the White House, and welcome to the sixth annual presentation of the National Medal of the Arts.**

Last year, this luncheon was held the week before Thanksgiving -- and was delayed when I got held up in the Rose Garden, doing a "photo op" with the "National Turkey." \\\

Barbara and I awarded medals that day to some of the artistic giants of our time -- Alfred Eisenstaedt, John Updike, Katherine Dunham, and Dizzy Gillespie, among others. \ And with all that assembled talent, guess which one was pictured standing next to me on the news that night? \\\ **The National Turkey.** \\\ We've done a little better scheduling this year, *Helsinki not with*

People
The ~~twelve~~ we honor today have earned a collection of awards with names that have become the world's touchstones of excellence -- names like Grammy and Oscar and Tony, prizes like the Pulitzer and the Nobel -- a collection of awards that would just about fill its own Smithsonian. **But where most of these awards were aimed at honoring individual works, today we gather to salute the full body of their work, their contributions to the arts, to the Nation, and to life in the twentieth century.**

Embracing an era that reaches back as far as George Abbott's

birth in 1887 -- and representing many generations of American talent -- they stand alongside the artists who helped define America -- no longer just another sprawling industrial nation -- but one of the cultural giants of the world.

Most had humble beginnings. I think of Jessica Tandy, sewing her own costumes in a backroom theatre in Soho. Or B.B. King, touring backstreet bars and dance halls, on the road for 20 years before most Americans would ever hear his name. Even their hometown names read like the very tapestry of America itself: Springfield, Ohio. Forestville, New York. Centralia, Washington. Atlantic City, New Jersey. And Itta Bena, Mississippi.

Four were foreign-born, from Clydebank, Scotland to a Polish village, then a part of the ⁹ Tzar's empire. They were drawn here by freedom, seeking not to enrich themselves -- but to enrich our culture. **And today, they are Americans all, striving in the creation of beauty, rather than in the acquisition of wealth.**

Taken together, today's honorees represent an apparently inexhaustible reserve of creativity, one that has often defied categorization. But there are at least two characteristics, I believe, that can apply to each. Each is a trailblazer, an authentic pioneer who literally helped to shape their art form. And each is an artist who pressed the very limits of their particular art form, often crossing over to combine distinct mediums in new and very different ways.

Sometimes that cross-fertilization is self-evident, such as with the multi-disciplinary approach of landscape architect Ian

McHarg; with Broadway legends like George Abbott, who's served variously as actor, playwright, and director; or with the love and magic of Hume Cronyn and Jessica Tandy, whose creations seem to float effortlessly from stage to screen and back again.

But you also see it in painter Jasper Johns' collaborative efforts with choreographer Merce Cunningham; in the film Enemies: A Love Story, where Isaac Singer's novel found a new and even larger audience; in literary characters like the Scarlet Letter's Hester Prynne, etched large on the screen by Lillian Gish; in the visual arts, where Frederick Douglass was brought to new life beneath the brush of Jacob Lawrence; and in the cries and hollers and work songs of field hands who labored in another time, once again heard rising on the wind through the guitar of B.B. King.

Speaking at Wellesley back in June, Barbara urged young Americans to go out and seek their own true colors. That's exactly what you've done. **You have created sounds and sights and characters ~~seen nowhere but~~ in the human imagination, and in doing so, enriched the colors on the canvas of our national life.** And that's why America continues to need and want -- and appreciate -- your creativity, your talent and your diversity.

We salute you -- and we salute your patrons, champions of the arts like Harris and Carroll Masterson, of my own hometown of Houston, and Southwestern Bell, of St. Louis -- for the joy you have given to Americans of many ages. \\ **Thank you. Congratulations. And God bless the United States of America.**

#

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

Sept 4 4:05 p.m.

DATE: 08/29/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 09/04 4:00 p.m.

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL MEDAL OF THE ARTS LUNCHEON
(08/29 draft two)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>PINKERTON</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>FIRESTONE</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>PORTER ROSE</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>HOLIDAY</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide any comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston by 4:00 pm on Tuesday, September 4th, with a copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

*See Comments. Thanks.
 Holly Williamson
 9-4-90*

James W. Cicconi
 Assistant to the President
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
 Ext. 2702


THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 4, 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM:

HOLLY WILLIAMSON 

SUBJECT:

National Medal of the Arts Luncheon Remarks

Please see the attached 2 inserts suggested by the NEA. Cabinet Affairs recommends the first insert rather than the second. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me. Thanks.

Attachments

**NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR
THE ARTS**

**WASHINGTON
D.C. 20506**




A Federal agency advised by the
National Council on the Arts

September 4, 1990


MEMORANDUM

TO: Holly Williamson
White House Office of Cabinet Affairs

FROM: John E. Frohnmayer 
Chairman

RE: Presidential Remarks for the National Medal of Arts

We feel it is important that the President have something very inspirational to say about the arts, for his remarks will be picked up by the press. We would like to add some language on the importance of government support of the arts. Our suggestion is to insert the following language as the penultimate paragraph:

 Indeed, it is your efforts in the arts and humanities -- in the realm of the spirit -- that distinguish America as a world leader rather than merely a world power. You are shining examples of American culture and the American ideal, the envy of the world over. I am proud that we as a people, and as a nation continue to support our the arts through Federal, state and local arts agencies and the thousand points of light -- those individuals who contribute to the cultural life of their communities from Portland, Oregon to Portland, Maine.

OR: The National Medal of Arts goes to those trailblazing artists and patrons, but this celebration is for all of the arts and their place in our lives. Art leads to greater discovery, imagination, creativity and a sense of beauty; it is central to self-knowledge and innovative thinking. A mark of a nation's maturity and leadership is shown through its commitment to the cultural life of its people, and I am pleased to state once again my strong support of the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities, on this, their 25th anniversary.

1990 AUG 29 PM 4:59

McNally/Simon
August 29, 1990
Draft Two (E:ARTS)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL MEDAL OF THE ARTS LUNCHEON
THE EAST ROOM
MONDAY, SEPT. 10, 1990, 11:45 A.M.

Thank you, John ((FROHNMAYER)) -- and thanks especially to our honored guests, the artists and the patrons of a special American tradition who grace us with their presence this afternoon. **Welcome to the White House, and welcome to the sixth annual presentation of the National Medal of the Arts.**

Last year, this luncheon was held the week before Thanksgiving -- and was delayed when I got held up in the Rose Garden, doing a "photo op" with the "National Turkey." \\\

Barbara and I awarded medals that day to some of the artistic giants of our time -- Alfred Eisenstaedt, John Updike, Katherine Dunham, and Dizzy Gillespie, among others. \ And with all that assembled talent, guess which one was pictured standing next to me on the news that night? \\\ **The National Turkey.** \\\ We've done a little better scheduling this year.

The twelve we honor today have earned a collection of awards with names that have become the world's touchstones of excellence -- names like Grammy and Oscar and Tony, prizes like the Pulitzer and the Nobel -- a collection of awards that would just about fill its own Smithsonian. **But where most of these awards were aimed at honoring individual works, today we gather to salute the full body of their work, their contributions to the arts, to the Nation, and to life in the twentieth century.**

Embracing an era that reaches back as far as George Abbott's

birth in 1887 -- and representing many generations of American talent -- they stand alongside the artists who helped define America -- no longer just another sprawling industrial nation -- but one of the cultural giants of the world.

Most had humble beginnings. I think of Jessica Tandy, sewing her own costumes in a backroom theatre in Soho. Or B.B. King, touring backstreet bars and dance halls, on the road for 20 years before most Americans would ever hear his name. Even their hometown names read like the very tapestry of America itself: Springfield, Ohio. Forestville, New York. Centralia, Washington. Atlantic City, New Jersey. And Itta Bena, Mississippi.

Four were foreign-born, from Clydebank, Scotland to a Polish village, then a part of the Tzar's empire. They were drawn here by freedom, seeking not to enrich themselves -- but to enrich our culture. And today, they are Americans all, striving in the creation of beauty, rather than in the acquisition of wealth.

Taken together, today's honorees represent an apparently inexhaustible reserve of creativity, one that has often defied categorization. But there are at least two characteristics, I believe, that can apply to each. Each is a trailblazer, an authentic pioneer who literally helped to shape their art form. And each is an artist who pressed the very limits of their particular art form, often crossing over to combine distinct mediums in new and very different ways.

Sometimes that cross-fertilization is self-evident, such as with the multi-disciplinary approach of landscape architect Ian

McHarg; with Broadway legends like George Abbott, who's served variously as actor, playwright, and director; or with the love and magic of Hume Cronyn and Jessica Tandy, whose creations seem to float effortlessly from stage to screen and back again.

But you also see it in painter Jasper Johns' collaborative efforts with choreographer Merce Cunningham; in the film Enemies: A Love Story, where Isaac Singer's novel found a new and even larger audience; in literary characters like the Scarlet Letter's Hester Prynne, etched large on the screen by Lillian Gish; in the visual arts, where Frederick Douglass was brought to new life beneath the brush of Jacob Lawrence; and in the cries and hollers and work songs of field hands who labored in another time, once again heard rising on the wind through the guitar of B.B. King.

Speaking at Wellesley back in June, Barbara urged young Americans to go out and seek their own true colors. That's exactly what you've done. **You have created sounds and sights and characters seen nowhere but in the human imagination, and in doing so, enriched the colors on the canvas of our national life.** And that's why America continues to need and want -- and appreciate -- your creativity, your talent and your diversity.

We salute you -- and we salute your patrons, champions of the arts like Harris and Carroll Masterson, of my own hometown of Houston, and Southwestern Bell, of St. Louis -- for the joy you have given to Americans of many ages. \\ **Thank you. Congratulations. And God bless the United States of America.**

#

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM



DATE: 08/29/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 09/04 4:00 p.m.

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL MEDAL OF THE ARTS LUNCHEON
(08/29 draft two)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>PINKERTON</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>DEMAREST</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>FIRESTONE</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>PORTER ROSE</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide any comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston by 4:00 pm on Tuesday, September 4th, with a copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

minor comments

James W. Cicconi
 Assistant to the President
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
 Ext. 2702

1990 AUG 29 PM 4:59

McNally/Simon
August 29, 1990
Draft Two (E:ARTS)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL MEDAL OF THE ARTS LUNCHEON
THE EAST ROOM
MONDAY, SEPT. 10, 1990, 11:45 A.M.

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*Punch line? e.g.
No, not my
golf score.*

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#

some are not imaginary e.g. Frederick Douglass

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

Aug 30, 1990 2:30 p.m.

DATE: 08/29/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 09/04 4:00 p.m.

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL MEDAL OF THE ARTS LUNCHEON
(08/29 draft two)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>PINKERTON</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>FIRESTONE</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>PORTER ROSE</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide any comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston by 4:00 pm on Tuesday, September 4th, with a copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

*OK. S.R.
8/30/90*

James W. Cicconi
 Assistant to the President
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
 Ext. 2702

Simon edits

McNally/Simon
August 29, 1990
Draft Two (E:ARTS)

1990 AUG 29 PM 4:59

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL MEDAL OF THE ARTS LUNCHEON
THE EAST ROOM
MONDAY, SEPT. 10, 1990, 11:45 A.M.

I'm honored to have

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Embracing an era that reaches back as far as George Abbott's

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

Sept 4 1990 3:15 p.m.

DATE: 08/29/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 09/04 4:00 p.m.

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL MEDAL OF THE ARTS LUNCHEON
(08/29 draft two)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>PINKERTON</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>FIRESTONE</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>PORTER ROSE</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:
 Please provide any comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston by 4:00 pm on Tuesday, September 4th, with a copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:
No Comment 8/30/90

James W. Cicconi
 Assistant to the President
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
 Ext. 2702

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 4, 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: ROGER B. PORTER *ABP*

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: National Medal Of The
Arts Luncheon

We have reviewed the remarks and have noted our comments on the attached draft.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

cc: James W. Cicconi

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 08/29/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 09/04 4:00 p.m.

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL MEDAL OF THE ARTS LUNCHEON
(08/29 draft two)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>PINKERTON</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>FIRESTONE</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>PORTER ROSE</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:
 Please provide any comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston by 4:00 pm on Tuesday, September 4th, with a copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

James W. Cicconi
 Assistant to the President
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
 Ext. 2702

1990 AUG 29 PM 4: 59

McNally/Simon
August 29, 1990
Draft Two (E:ARTS)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL MEDAL OF THE ARTS LUNCHEON
THE EAST ROOM
MONDAY, SEPT. 10, 1990, 11:45 A.M.

Thank you, John ((FROHNMAYER)) -- and thanks especially to our honored guests, the artists and the patrons of a special American tradition who grace us with their presence this afternoon. **Welcome to the White House, and welcome to the sixth annual presentation of the National Medal of the Arts.**

Last year, this luncheon was held the week before Thanksgiving -- and was delayed when I got held up in the Rose Garden, doing a "photo op" with the "National Turkey." \\\

Barbara and I awarded medals that day to some of the artistic giants of our time -- Alfred Eisenstaedt, John Updike, Katherine Dunham, and Dizzy Gillespie, among others. \ And with all that assembled talent, guess which one was pictured standing next to me on the news that night? \\\ **The National Turkey.** \\\ We've done a little better scheduling this year.

The twelve we honor today have earned a collection of awards with names that have become the world's touchstones of excellence -- names like Grammy and Oscar and Tony, prizes like the Pulitzer and the Nobel -- a collection of awards that would just about fill its own Smithsonian. **But where most of these awards were aimed at honoring individual works, today we gather to salute the full body of their work, their contributions to the arts, to the Nation, and to life in the twentieth century.**

Embracing an era that reaches back as far as George Abbott's

birth in 1887 -- and representing many generations of American talent -- they stand alongside the artists who helped ^{make} define America -- ~~no longer just another sprawling industrial nation --~~ but one of the cultural giants of the world.

Most had humble beginnings. I think of Jessica Tandy, sewing her own costumes in a backroom theatre in Soho. Or B.B. King, touring backstreet bars and dance halls, on the road for 20 years before most Americans would ever hear his name. Even their hometown names read like the very tapestry of America itself: Springfield, Ohio. Forestville, New York. Centralia, Washington. Atlantic City, New Jersey. And Itta Bena, Mississippi.

Four were foreign-born, from Clydebank, Scotland to a Polish village, then a part of the Tzar's empire. They were drawn here by freedom, seeking not to enrich themselves -- but to enrich our culture. **And today, they are Americans all, striving in the creation of beauty, rather than in the acquisition of wealth.**

Taken together, today's honorees represent an apparently inexhaustible reserve of creativity, one that has often defied categorization. But there are at least two characteristics, I believe, that can apply to each. Each is a trailblazer, an authentic pioneer who literally helped to shape their art form. And each is an artist who pressed the very limits of their particular art form, often crossing over to combine distinct mediums in new and very different ways.

Sometimes that cross-fertilization is self-evident, such as with the multi-disciplinary approach of landscape architect Ian

McHarg; with Broadway legends like George Abbott, who's served variously as actor, playwright, and director; or with the love and magic of Hume Cronyn and Jessica Tandy, whose creations seem to float effortlessly from stage to screen and back again.

But you also see it in painter Jasper Johns' collaborative efforts with choreographer Merce Cunningham; in the film Enemies: A Love Story, where Isaac Singer's novel found a new and even larger audience; in literary characters like the Scarlet Letter's Hester Prynne, etched large on the screen by Lillian Gish; in the visual arts, where Frederick Douglass was brought to new life beneath the brush of Jacob Lawrence; and in the cries and hollers and work songs of field hands who labored in another time, once again heard rising on the wind through the guitar of B.B. King.

Speaking at Wellesley back in June, Barbara urged young Americans to go out and seek their own true colors. That's exactly what you've done. You have created sounds and sights and characters seen nowhere but in the human imagination, and in doing so, enriched the colors on the canvas of our national life. And that's why America continues to need and want -- and appreciate -- your creativity, your talent and your diversity.

We salute you -- and we salute your patrons, champions of the arts like Harris and Carroll Masterson, of my own hometown of Houston, and Southwestern Bell, of St. Louis -- for the joy you have given to Americans of many ages. \\ Thank you. Congratulations. And God bless the United States of America.

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