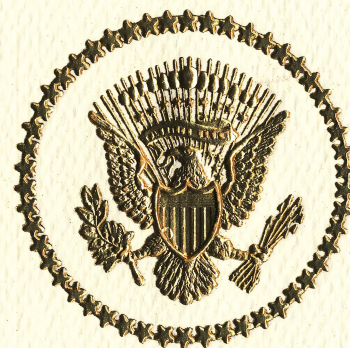
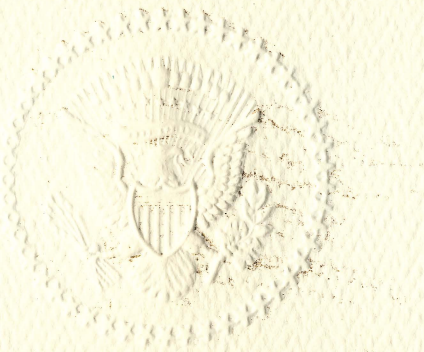






THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. BUSH

welcome you to

FORD'S THEATRE

for Hal Holbrook's performance of

MARK TWAIN TONIGHT



THE WHITE HOUSE

SALUTE TO AMERICA'S AUTHORS SERIES

Thursday, November 29, 2001

"I was sorry to have my name mentioned as one of the great authors, because they have a sad habit of dying off. Chaucer is dead, so is Milton, so is Shakespeare, and I'm not feeling very well myself."

—Samuel Clemens
Letter to Orion and Mary Clemens
October 19, 1865

HAL HOLBROOK

Hal Holbrook was born in Cleveland in 1925. His mother and father disappeared when he was two, so young Holbrook and his two sisters were raised by their grandfather in South Weymouth, Massachusetts. At the age of seven he was sent away to boarding school and then to Culver Military Academy, where his lifelong disenchantment with authority deepened. But it was at Culver that he discovered acting as an escape.

After serving 3 years in World War II, the Mark Twain characterization grew out of an honors project at Denison University in Ohio. This was a two-person show, featuring characters from Shakespeare to Twain with his first wife, Ruby. They toured the school assembly circuit in the Southwest, 307 shows and 30,000 miles by station wagon in 30 weeks. Audiences were often unruly. They learned to survive on stage or perish.

Holbrook's first solo appearance as Mark Twain was in 1954. By now he was pounding the pavements in New York looking for work. Fortune struck with a job on a daytime television soap opera, but Holbrook pursued the Twain character in a Greenwich Village night club. Ed Sullivan saw him and gave his Twain national television exposure. In 1959, he opened at a tiny theatre off-Broadway in New York. It was a stunning success. *"The critics went wild"* (Associated Press). *"Mr. Holbrook's material is uproarious, his ability to hold an audience by acting is brilliant"* (The New York Times). After the New York run with Twain he toured the country again, performed for President Eisenhower and at the Edinburgh Festival. The State Department sent him on a tour of Europe.

Then he turned to Shakespeare at Stratford, Connecticut; and a string of performances on Broadway which led to his second Twain engagement in 1966 for which he won a Tony Award, a Drama Critics' Circle Award, and a ninety-minute CBS television special of "Mark Twain Tonight!", which was nominated for an Emmy Award and seen by an audience of 22 million people.

Holbrook performed in over fifty television movies, mini-series and sitcoms, and has been nominated for twelve Emmy Awards and won five. He has also acted in thirty-five films, including "The Majestic", opening next month.

His tours with "Mark Twain Tonight!" continue each year. In its 47th consecutive year, it has become one of the longest running shows in theatre history.

Mr. Holbrook has sailed extensively in the South Pacific in his 40-foot sailboat, Yankee Tar, including the 1980 single-handed race to Hawaii. He is married to the actress, Dixie Carter, and lives in Los Angeles.