

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. memo	Melanne Verveer to the President re: nominees (2 pages)	06/02/1995	b(6)
002. memo	The Chairman to the President re: Nominees (6 pages)	06/31/1995	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 23252

FOLDER TITLE:

[National Medal of the Arts] Recipients

2013-0534-S

rc1640

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

Michael R. Bryant

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

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PAUL NEWMAN

cc:
Melanne
HRC
Staff Dir
J. Presiden

August 14, 1995

President & Mrs. William Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President & Mrs. Clinton:

Joanne and I have been notified in regard to the Capital Endowment Arts Medal. We are both, of course, honored and touched especially since the nominees have been hand picked by your good offices.

It's with some considerable difficulty that we decline - - - with the following observation: In Thornton Wilders' "Our Town", the mother says to her daughter, "you are pretty enough for all normal purposes." Joanne and I have been fortunate enough to be honored enough "for all normal purposes." More would constitute gorging. The trick, we have decided, is to avoid this rampant social disease called "Honorhea" and its sister, which I refer to as "Noisy Philanthropy."

I hope you are both sympathetic to our position that we may sit down and tend our flowers.

Best personal wishes,



PN/do

cc: Jane Alexander

Bob Hope, Poet Brooks To Receive Arts Medals

10 Others Named; Five To Get Humanities Award

By Jacqueline Trescott
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Clinton, paying tribute to the national arts scene, yesterday named 12 Americans to receive the 1995 National Medal of Arts. The varied list includes entertainer Bob Hope, poet Gwendolyn Brooks and painter Roy Lichtenstein.

The awards are given in conjunction with the Charles Frankel Prize in the Humanities, whose five recipients were also announced yesterday. Clinton is scheduled to present the awards to the 17 artists and scholars on Thursday. The observance of National Arts and Humanities Month will continue Saturday with a "National Open House" of museums, libraries, theaters and other cultural institutions.

In announcing the administration's selections, Clinton said: "The stellar list of honorees includes some of the brightest beacons in American arts and culture. These are the people who lift our spirits and illuminate our lives."

The medal will also be given to choreographer Arthur Mitchell, soprano Licia Albanese, composer David Diamond, architect James Ingo Freed, actors Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee, bluegrass musician Bill Monroe and philanthropists Gerald and Iris Cantor. The arts education group Urban Gateways of Chicago will also be cited at the White House ceremony. The names are forwarded to the White House annually by the National Endowment for the Arts for the president's final approval.

The Frankel Prize, an annual honor originated by the National Endowment for the Humanities, will go to scholar William R. Ferris, director of the Center for the

See PRIZES, B3, Col. 1

PRIZES, From B1

Study of Southern Culture; author and broadcaster Charles Kuralt; author and illustrator David Macaulay; historian David McCullough; and singer-composer and historian Bernice Johnson Reagon.

When informed of her selection, Albanese said yesterday that she thought back to her American singing debut. "It was like my first night at the Metropolitan," she said, flashing back to a February night in 1940 that began a quarter-century association with the Met. Of the award, she said, "I felt happiness and a little fear. It would be so good to meet such a great president. He is such a handsome man."

Brooks, who has mined the black experience and contemporary American life in her poetry for more than 40 years, said she was grateful there was even an opportunity to honor artists. "Especially in these times when the en-

dowments are having such a difficult time, I am happy they could take the time out," she said.

Davis, who is currently appearing as the judge in the television series "The Client," said he is of two minds about awards in general. "I am skeptical of all honors, whether they apply to me or someone else," he said. "But I am also delighted because it is not only an honor for me personally but for my own people, my own culture and the values for which Ruby and I stand."

A spokesman for Hope said yesterday that the comedian, whose career has spanned vaudeville, radio, Broadway, film, television and writing, was pleased to "be on a roll" in receiving honors at age 92.

The Cantors have donated their extensive art collection to a variety of American institutions, including a gift of 33 Rodin sculptures to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. They have also underwritten purchases and exhibitions at the National Gallery of Art and are

paying for the installation of the sculptor at the White House First Lady's Garden.

Freed, a partner of the architectural team of Pei Cobb Freed, designed the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Potomac Tower in Rosslyn, among many award-winning buildings.

Kuralt, a correspondent at CBS News for 37 years, made his mark doing vignettes on ordinary Americans, their pastimes and places. He won 13

Emmys for his "On the Road" segments and has written two best-selling books based on those reporting experiences.

Ferris, an anthropology professor at the University of Mississippi, has been intimately involved in the documentation and exposure of Southern American culture since the early 1970s. He is the author of several books on folklore, literature and music and has hosted a weekly blues program on Mississippi Public Radio for a decade.

In addition to his award-winning histories, including the Pulitzer Prize-winning biography "Truman," McCullough has enlarged the notion of a public historian. He has been the host of public television's "American Experience" series and was the narrator of the PBS documentary "The Civil War."

Though his works are primarily directed at children, Macaulay has reached a much wider audience with his richly detailed books about architecture and machines. His "The Way Things Work" is considered the most popular book on machines and mechanical engineering ever published.

Reagon, an influential exponent of African American vocal music, is the founder of the singing group Sweet Honey in the Rock. A former director of the Smithsonian Institution's Program in Black American Culture and a past MacArthur Fellow, she teaches at American University.



Gwendolyn Brooks:
Mining the black
experience in poetry
for four decades.

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