

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

6 March 1996

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Professor Parker B. Albee, Jr.
History Department
University of Southern Maine
96 Falmouth Street
Portland, ME 04103-4899

Dear Professor Albee:

Thank you for your recent letter requesting an update on the status of your recommendation of Joe Rosenthal for the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

The names of individuals recommended for this honor are maintained on file at the White House. The President is not limited as to the number of awards he may present during the course of his Administration, and he periodically reviews the names of recommended individuals along with a description of their accomplishments. I have forwarded your letter to Todd Stern, Staff Secretary to the President, for his information.

On behalf of the President, thank you again for your continuing interest. Your endorsement of Mr. Rosenthal for the Presidential Medal of Freedom will be given very careful consideration.

Sincerely,

Harold Ickes

Harold Ickes
Assistant to the President
and Deputy Chief of Staff

cc: Todd Stern

CC: *Dorsey* 3/9/96
to W&A back to me.
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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE

History Department
College of Arts and Sciences

96 Falmouth Street
Portland, Maine 04103-4899
(207) 780-4284

February 29, 1996

Mr. Harold Ickes
Deputy Chief of Staff
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Ickes:

Keller Cushing Freeman and I were extremely heartened to receive Mr. Dorskind's letter of November 29, informing us that Mr. Joe Rosenthal's nomination for the Presidential Medal of Freedom is being given careful consideration. From the moment Joe Rosenthal landed on Iwo Jima along with our Marines, to his photographing their raising our flag on Mt. Suribachi, right down to the present day, this special American has demonstrated the qualities inherent in exemplary citizenship.

We write at this time to inform you that with Joe's advanced age (84), his failing eyesight, and his declining mobility, time is of the essence. If he were to receive this well-deserved honor, it would be so much more meaningful if he were able to receive this award in person. We might add that in pursuing his nomination this past year Dr. Freeman and I have not mentioned a word of this to Joe, whose modesty is legendary. But there is no person more deserving of this highest civilian honor, and we greatly appreciate the attention his nomination is receiving.

Sincerely,

Parker B. Albee, Jr.
Professor of History

cc: Mr. James A. Dorskind

