



NATIONAL HUMANITIES MEDALISTS

President George W. Bush awarded the 2008 National Humanities Medals during a ceremony held in the White House East Room in November. Nine distinguished Americans, one museum, and a philanthropic foundation were honored for their exemplary contributions to the humanities.

The National Humanities Medal, first awarded in 1989 as the Charles Frankel Prize, honors individuals or groups whose work has deepened the nation's understanding of the humanities, broadened our citizens' engagement with the humanities, or helped preserve and expand Americans' access to important resources in the humanities.

Medal recipients do not compete for this award but are selected by the president for their lifelong achievements in their diverse areas of expertise. Their achievements were cited at the ceremony:

GABOR S. BORITT, scholar and Civil War historian, recognized “for a distinguished career of scholarship on Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War era. His life's work and his life's story stand as testaments to our nation's precious legacy of liberty.”

RICHARD BROOKHISER, biographer and historian, recognized “for helping reintroduce Americans to the personalities, eccentricities, and noble ideals of our Founding Fathers. His works of biography and history have rendered vivid and accessible portraits of the early days of the Republic.”

HAROLD HOLZER, scholar and Civil War historian, recognized “for engaging scholarship on that crucible of our history, the American Civil War. His work has brought new understanding of the many facets of Abraham Lincoln and his era through the study of image, word, and deed.”

MYRON MAGNET, journalist and author, recognized “for scholarship and visionary influence in renewing our national culture of compassion. He has combined literary and cultural history with a profound understanding of contemporary urban life to examine new ways of relieving poverty and renewing civic institutions.”

ALBERT MARRIN, children's book author, recognized “for opening young minds to the glorious pageant of history. His books have made the lessons of the past come alive with rich detail and energy for a new generation.”

MILTON J. ROSENBERG, radio show host and scholar, recognized “for bringing the world of ideas to millions of listeners. Combining a scholar's understanding and a teacher's openness, he has made a home in radio for elevated conversation and profound thought.”

THOMAS A. SAUNDERS III and **JORDAN HORNER SAUNDERS**, philanthropists, recognized “for their wise leadership and philanthropy on behalf of higher education, the study of art, and greater understanding of American history. They have enriched our culture and ensured a lasting legacy for future generations.”

ROBERT H. SMITH, philanthropist, recognized “for his profoundly wise stewardship and generous support of our nation’s premiere institutions of historical, artistic, and cultural heritage. He has been a farsighted benefactor and a civic leader for all seasons.”

JOHN TEMPLETON FOUNDATION recognized “for opening new frontiers in the pursuit of answers to mankind’s oldest questions. The Templeton Foundation has been the catalyst of groundbreaking work in scientific, religious, and philosophical exploration of the deepest concerns of the humanities and the human race.”

NORMAN ROCKWELL MUSEUM recognized “for studying and honoring the life, work, and ideals of an icon of American art. The museum has been the careful curator of the archives, illustrations, and benevolent spirit Norman Rockwell bequeathed to the nation.”