



## *Barack Obama Presidential Library*

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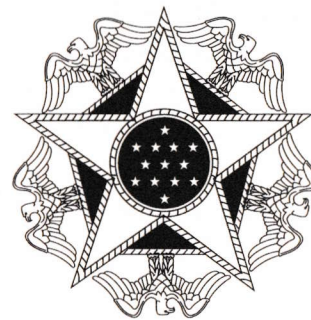
THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. OBAMA

*welcome you to*

THE WHITE HOUSE

*on the occasion of  
the presentation of the*

PRESIDENTIAL  
MEDAL OF FREEDOM



*Tuesday, November 24, 2015*

## PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

Originally established as the *Medal of Freedom* by President Truman by Executive Order 9586 of July 6, 1945, the Medal was reestablished as the *Presidential Medal of Freedom* by President John F. Kennedy by Executive Order 11085 of February 22, 1963. It is the highest civil award of our Government. The Medal is awarded by the President of the United States to those persons whom he deems to have made especially meritorious contributions to the security or national interests of the United States, to world peace, or to cultural or other significant public or private endeavors. The Medal may be awarded to citizens of other nations and may be awarded posthumously.

President Kennedy announced the first *Presidential Medal of Freedom* awards on July 4, 1963. President Lyndon Johnson then made the first presentations of the *Presidential Medal of Freedom* in a ceremony at the White House on December 6, 1963.



## THE RECIPIENTS

Lawrence Peter Berra  
(Posthumously)

Bonnie Carroll

Shirley Chisholm  
(Posthumously)

Emilio Estefan Jr.

Gloria Estefan

Billy Frank Jr.  
(Posthumously)

Lee H. Hamilton

Katherine G. Johnson

Willie Howard Mays, Jr.

Barbara A. Mikulski

Itzhak Perlman

William D. Ruckelshaus

Stephen Sondheim

Steven Spielberg

Barbra Joan Streisand

James Taylor

Minoru Yasui  
(Posthumously)





## LAWRENCE PETER BERRA

(POSTHUMOUSLY)

One of our country's most beloved and quotable sports heroes, Lawrence Peter "Yogi" Berra was a world class baseball player and a great spirit. He left home to join the Navy, fought on D-Day, and came home with a Purple Heart. As a three-time All-Star and MVP Major League catcher, he won ten World Series Championships. As the Manager of the New York Yankees, he guided his team and the sport he loved with a wisdom that lives on in our national consciousness, and taught us all that we can observe a lot just by watching.



## BONNIE CARROLL

After her husband died in an Army plane crash, Bonnie Carroll channeled her own grief into service. As the founder of the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, she has devoted her life to building a network to support families who, like hers, made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. Bonnie has comforted the hearts and lifted the lives of thousands of families across the country. Her strength and generosity are a testament to the enduring human spirit.



## SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

(POSTHUMOUSLY)

As the first African-American Congresswoman and the first African-American woman to seek a major party nomination for President, Shirley Chisholm carried the torch of progress into a new era of American politics. From classrooms in New York City to committee rooms in Congress, she gave voice to the plight of marginalized communities, built coalitions to expand social justice, and denounced sexism and racism. By refusing to stand on the sidelines, never letting others define her limits, and daring to be herself, Shirley Chisholm embodied the American spirit.



## EMILIO ESTEFAN JR.

A native of Havana, Cuba, Emilio Estefan Jr. rose to become a musician, producer, and businessman. Bringing his distinctive Latin sound to North America's pop music audiences, he proved that the power of music transcends cultural, social, and economic boundaries. By using song to celebrate and elevate the accomplishments of Latin Americans, Emilio Estefan has blended cultures and created a new, wholly American sound.



## GLORIA ESTEFAN

With her infectious rhythm and iconic vocals, Gloria Estefan is a music powerhouse who has sold millions of records across the globe. Transporting the spirit of Havana to Miami and beyond, her music broke down barriers and established Latin music in the American mainstream. A humanitarian and a devoted family leader, Gloria Estefan embodies the story of America, and of a pioneer who will forever symbolize the potential of all those who passionately develop their talents and build their dreams.



## BILLY FRANK JR.

(POSTHUMOUSLY)

Billy Frank Jr. devoted his life to protecting the rights of Native Americans and to conserving our planet. For over 50 years, he tirelessly and fearlessly fought for the preservation of traditional ways of life and the protection of treaty fishing rights. He was widely renowned as an advocate for the physical and cultural survival of Native Americans. His legacy reminds us that the pursuit of equality and justice is the work of every generation.



## LEE H. HAMILTON

A leading voice on foreign policy and national security, Lee H. Hamilton has played a pivotal role in developing solutions to some of the most complex challenges of our time. His leadership in Congress reflected his profound commitment to preserving the safety and integrity of our Nation, and his role in promoting civic engagement has made an impact that will endure for generations to come. Lee H. Hamilton has helped steer the course of American history in a spirit of bipartisanship, and he continues to strengthen the homeland and promote diplomacy.



## KATHERINE G. JOHNSON

With her razor-sharp mathematical mind, Katherine G. Johnson helped broaden the scope of space travel, charting new frontiers for humanity's exploration of space, and creating new possibilities for all humankind. From sending the first American to space to the first moon landing, she played a critical role in many of NASA's most important milestones. Katherine G. Johnson refused to be limited by society's expectations of her gender and race while expanding the boundaries of humanity's reach.





### WILLIE HOWARD MAYS, JR.

Born in segregated Alabama, Willie Howard Mays, Jr. grew up to become one of the greatest baseball players of all time. With his unmatched power and agility, he stepped into the history books as a two-time MVP with 660 career home runs and 24 All-Star appearances. Along the way, the “Say Hey Kid” captured hearts across America. His life story reminds us of the power of hard work and determination—and his legacy continues to inspire generations of Americans.



### BARBARA A. MIKULSKI

For decades, Barbara A. Mikulski has served the people of Maryland and our Nation with conviction, heart, and a spirit of selflessness. As a social worker, community organizer, city councilor, and the longest serving woman in Congress, she has been a tireless advocate for families, women, children, and seniors. In the Senate, Barbara A. Mikulski has wielded her power to fight for equality and fairness for the most vulnerable members of our society. Her example helped pave the way for other women in elected office—and her legacy will endure in all those who climb the ladder of opportunity she fought to build.



## ITZHAK PERLMAN

A teacher, conductor, and one of the greatest violinists of our time, Itzhak Perlman has brought joy to millions, inspired countless new artists, and earned adoration from global audiences. Born in Israel, he has devoted his life to sharing his love of music. From Tel Aviv to Shanghai, from London to Moscow, he has served as one of the world's most cherished cultural ambassadors, as well as a tireless advocate for the disabled. Itzhak Perlman's heartfelt performances on stage, and dedicated efforts to educate the next generation will continue to enrich the human symphony.



## WILLIAM D. RUCKELSHAUS

From his time as an Army drill sergeant to his service at the highest levels of Government, William D. Ruckelshaus has served our Nation with dedication and integrity. The first Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, he led the Government's efforts to help communities struggling with contaminated rivers and polluted cities. Years later, he returned to its helm to carry forward its mission of environmental stewardship. With conviction and courage, William D. Ruckelshaus continues to place principle over politics, continuing his lifetime of advocacy on behalf of our Nation and our planet.



## STEPHEN SONDHEIM

An acclaimed lyricist and composer, Stephen Sondheim is the master of the American musical. His witty, poignant shows tell tales of misfits, romantics, dreamers, and lunatics, each meticulously wrought, many grappling with dark urges or dashed hopes. Yet his musicals are also full of joyous energy, sustained by gorgeous melodies and brilliant turns of phrase. His astonishing body of work includes many of our Nation's best-loved, most frequently staged musicals, and people around the world know and love his songs. Stephen Sondheim has forever left his mark on the American stage.



## STEVEN SPIELBERG

From "E.T." and "Jurassic Park" to "Saving Private Ryan" and "Schindler's List," Steven Spielberg has firmly established his place as one of history's most influential filmmakers. He has brought entire universes to life, broadened our horizons, and ushered iconic American characters into being. Our world has been shaped by his stories—and through his Shoah Foundation, he's helped thousands of survivors of genocide tell world-changing stories of their own. He represents the best of American culture and humanitarianism, and we honor his timeless contributions to our National life.



## BARBRA JOAN STREISAND

For six decades, Barbra Joan Streisand has used her extraordinary voice to bring life to the range, and humor, of the human experience. Her talent, authenticity, and bold performances have left an indelible mark on American film, theater and music, inspiring generations of fans and performers. As a philanthropist and powerful advocate for women's heart health, she encourages others to use their own voices to make a difference. Barbra Joan Streisand's legacy will endure in the American narrative.



## JAMES TAYLOR

For decades, James Taylor has used the power of music to enrich our Nation and the world. From longing and love to loss and renewal, his intimate songwriting captures the heart of the human experience. Through fire and rain and so much more, each generation that grows to know James Taylor's music will continue to be moved by its timelessness and enduring beauty.





**MINORU YASUI**  
(POSTHUMOUSLY)

From the fruit farms of Oregon to the hallowed halls of the Supreme Court, Minoru Yasui devoted his life to fighting for basic human rights and the fair and equal treatment of every American. In challenging the military curfew placed on Japanese-Americans during World War II, he brought critical attention to the issue, and paved the way for all Americans to stand as full and equal citizens. Minoru Yasui's example endures as a reminder of the power of one voice echoing for justice.

