



News Release

For Immediate Release

Press Contact: Giuliana Bullard
703-532-1477
duetto@verizon.net

**FOUNDATION FOR THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES PRESENTS ITS 2007
RECORDS OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD TO HISTORIAN JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN**
Award Celebrated with Gala Sponsored by The Boeing Company

SEPTEMBER 18, 2007—Washington, DC—The Foundation for the National Archives today announced that it is pleased to award its fourth annual Records of Achievement Award to John Hope Franklin. Professor Franklin has opened new windows of understanding of race relations in the United States through his writing, teaching, lecturing and civil rights activism. The tribute will be awarded this evening at the Foundation for the National Archives Annual Gala event, sponsored by The Boeing Company.

The Foundation for the National Archives' Records of Achievement Award is an annual tribute, recognizing an individual who has made a significant impact upon the public's understanding of the United States and its history. The awardees' accomplishments reflect the Foundation's mission by highlighting the stories found in the millions of documents, photographs, maps, films and recordings in the National Archives to bring about a fuller understanding of our national experience. By way of introduction to and interpretation of the nation's recorded history, the recipient of the Records of Achievement Award will have served to educate, enrich and even inspire a deeper appreciation of the country, its democratic ideals and the rich heritage of its people.

"An esteemed scholar of American history, John Hope Franklin has worked tirelessly to illuminate the history of the United States, especially articulating the African American narrative and issues of race," said Tom Wheeler, President of the Foundation for the National Archives. "His inspired work provokes us to take up the difficult questions of inequality and oppression faced by Americans from the nation's beginnings, and to bring to this task a more complete understanding of our national heritage. I am delighted that the Foundation for the National Archives is honoring Dr. Franklin as this year's recipient of our top honor."

"Professor Franklin's work has made a significant mark on the scholarship of American history," said Archivist of the United States Allen Weinstein. "At the same time Franklin has consolidated his leadership role in American life through his civil rights activism. I commend Professor Franklin for his bravery, dignity, and energy and for his achievements as an historian, which have contributed profoundly to understanding America's past."

The Gala, sponsored by The Boeing Company for the third year, celebrates the public-private partnership between the National Archives and Records Administration and the Foundation for the National Archives, which was created to support the development of programs, technology, exhibits and educational materials based on the vast holdings of the National Archives.

The exclusive evening event draws distinguished guests from Washington's civic and cultural community as well as dignitaries from the Administration, Congress, the Court, the Judiciary, and the diplomatic corps to celebrate the Records of Achievement Award.

"John Hope Franklin is an ideal recipient of the Records of Achievement Award as his life and contributions are emblematic of the rich tapestry of history and heritage to be found in the Archives," said Jim Albaugh, president and CEO of Boeing Integrated Defense Systems. "Professor Franklin is also living proof that not only can a historian unlock the past but can also make a significant difference in the shape of the nation's future."

Professor Franklin has held various posts in academia across the country and abroad, including his current position as the James B. Duke Professor Emeritus of History. He has lectured and written extensively—and to much critical acclaim—on the African American experience in the context of the larger American historical record. His 1947 book, *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans*, now in its eighth edition, is still widely considered the definitive work on the subject.

During the civil rights struggle, he provided invaluable historical research for Thurgood Marshall and the NAACP legal defense team that won the landmark 1965 Supreme Court case, *Brown v. Board of Education*. In 1997, he headed President Bill Clinton's Initiative on Race, and included among his many honorary degrees and awards is a Presidential Medal of Freedom.

"The past is perhaps not as great as we regard it, if it can't suggest to us how we are to conduct ourselves in the present and in the future," Professor Franklin once said. "It's terribly important. And the historian's role there is unique, for he has command of so much that has happened. And if he uses it properly has a lot to say about what ought to happen."

About the Foundation for the National Archives

Created in 1992, the Foundation for the National Archives is an independent nonprofit organization committed to the mission of fostering public awareness of the importance of the National Archives as an essential resource in the American democracy. The Foundation serves as the private-sector partner of the National Archives in the creation of the *National Archives Experience*, a partnership for civic literacy which includes permanent exhibits, educational programs, traveling exhibits, special events and screenings, educational literature, and historical/records-related products and media. The Foundation supports these activities by generating financial and creative support from individuals, foundations and corporations who share a belief in the importance of innovative civics education.

About the Boeing Company

Boeing is the world's leading aerospace company and the largest manufacturer of commercial jetliners and military aircraft combined. Additionally, Boeing designs and manufactures rotorcraft, electronic and defense systems, missiles, satellites, launch vehicles and advanced information and communication systems. As a major service provider to NASA, Boeing operates the Space Shuttle and International Space Station. The company also provides numerous military and commercial airline support services. Boeing has customers in more than 90 countries around the world and is one of the largest U.S. exporters in terms of sales. Headquartered in Chicago, Boeing employs more than 150,000 people across the United States and in 70 countries. Total company revenues for 2006 were \$61.5 billion.

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