



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Tom Wheeler Feted for Six Years of Service to the Foundation for the National Archives

Washington, DC—February 17, 2009—The Board of Directors of the Foundation for the National Archives hosted a dazzling celebration last Wednesday night to honor the six-year presidency of Tom Wheeler. Wheeler was joined by board members, two former U.S. Archivists, and more than a hundred additional invited guests at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC for an evening of tributes and awards recognizing Tom's leadership in the success of the Foundation's *National Archives Experience*, a multi-year, multi-million dollar initiative that helped transform the public spaces of the National Archives Building.

Wheeler, an enthusiastic life-long student of history and a telecommunications industry leader, was President of the Board of Directors of the Foundation for the National Archives from 2002 – 2008. He is a managing director of Core Capital Partners, which he joined in 2005 following nearly three decades of working at the forefront of telecommunications policy and business development. After several years as CEO of various technology start-ups, including the first company to offer high-speed data to the home and the first digital video delivery service, he was asked to take over the Cellular Telecommunications & Internet Association (CTIA), where he was CEO until 2004. He served as a member of the Obama Administration's transition team agency review working group focusing on science, technology, space and arts agencies. Wheeler has authored two books that demonstrate his love of history: *Take Command!: Leadership Lessons from the Civil War* (Doubleday, 2000) and *Mr. Lincoln's T-Mails: The Untold*

Story of How Abraham Lincoln Used the Telegraph to Win the Civil War (HarperCollins, 2006).

The festivities honoring Wheeler began with a cocktail reception in the lobbies of the William G. McGowan Theater. Master of Ceremonies Cappy McGarr, a member of the Foundation's Board of Directors, welcomed guests into the McGowan Theater, a world-class facility developed through the *National Archives Experience*, for a program including a film tribute, as well as remarks by Acting Archivist of the United States Adrienne Thomas and former U.S. Archivist Allen Weinstein. A special viewing of the official Emancipation Proclamation followed in the Rotunda Galleries. The guests then took their seats for dinner in the space adjacent to the Rotunda for the Charters of Freedom that had been renovated as part of the *National Archives Experience*.

A presentation followed that included comments on the Foundation's beginnings by former U.S. Archivist John Carlin, remarks on the *National Archives Experience* and new and future challenges and opportunities by new Board Chairman and President Ken Lore, the announcement of the Board's charitable gift in Tom Wheeler's honor in support of the Archives' Civil War-related educational initiatives, and a speech about Tom Wheeler's passion for documents by historian and Vice President of the Board Michael Beschloss. Beschloss and Lore then presented Wheeler with a selection of document facsimiles and a medallion honoring his service.

Attendees at the event included: Bess and Tyler Abell, Senator Lamar and Honey Alexander, Pat Butler, Bitsey Folger and Sidney Werkman, Marion Guggenheim and Harry Thayer, Sally Katzen and Tim Dyk, Marilynn Wood Hill, Governor Frank Keating, Mary Lynn and Nick Kotz, Larry O'Brien, Joel Picket, Henry and Bernadette Rivera, Ronald and Patti Rosenfeld, Mark and Alice Russell, Mark and Ann Shields, Riley Temple, Marvin Weissberg and Judith Morris, John and Diana Zentay, and Core Capital managing director Pascal Luck.

“Tom Wheeler combines a passion for history, a vision for excellence, and the entrepreneurial management skills that were a perfect fit for the Foundation as we experienced rapid and exciting growth over the past six years,” said Thora Colot, Executive Director of the Foundation for the National Archives. “Tom spearheaded the Board’s efforts with the agency to create the new *National Archives Experience*, renovated and opened the new National Archives Shop, and helped raise more than \$23 million in private funds to make possible the opening of the Boeing Learning Center, the Public Vaults exhibition, the Lawrence F. O’Brien Gallery, the William G. McGowan Theater, and the launch of an award-winning web site.”

Ken Lore, Wheeler’s successor as President of the Board of Directors, said, “Tom has helped change the public face of the National Archives over the last six years, as the Foundation and the agency have partnered to create the *National Archives Experience* and welcome more than 1 million visitors each year to discover our shared heritage in the Archives’ records. His efforts have laid the groundwork for the next chapter in the Foundation’s life, as we look to support the National Archives’ upcoming ‘Discovering the Civil War’ exhibition, enhanced educational programs, digital initiatives, and the continued expansion of the *National Archives Experience*.”

About the Foundation for the National Archives

The Foundation for the National Archives is an independent nonprofit that serves as the private-sector partner of the National Archives in the creation of the *National Archives Experience*, which includes permanent exhibits, educational programs, traveling exhibits, special events and screenings, educational literature, and historical/records-related products and media. The Foundation helps the public understand the importance of the holdings of the National Archives by presenting the depth and diversity of the records through award-winning, interactive educational exhibits and programs. It generates financial and creative support for the *National Archives Experience* from individuals, foundations, and corporations who share a belief in the importance of innovative civics education.

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