

## U.S. Newswire (USA)

February 12, 2007

as provided by US Newswire

### Historians David Herbert Donald, Doris Kearns Goodwin Awarded 2007 Ford's

Dateline: WASHINGTON, Feb 12, 2007 (U.S. Newswire via COMTEX) --

Article Text:

Dr. David Herbert Donald and Doris Kearns Goodwin have been named the 2007 recipients of the Ford's Theatre Lincoln Medal.

Given by Ford's Theatre, the site of one of the most significant events in American history, the Ford's Theatre Lincoln Medal is an annual award given to individuals who through their body of work, accomplishments or personal attributes exemplify the lasting legacy and mettle of character embodied by the most beloved president in our nation's history, President Abraham Lincoln.

As the kickoff to milestone cultural programming and events leading up to the Bicentennial of President Abraham Lincoln's birth in February of 2009, the President and Mrs. Bush hosted the 25th Ford's Theatre Lincoln Medal award ceremony and celebration at the White House on Sunday, February 11, 2007. One of Washington's most generous supporters of the arts and education, the **Catherine B. Reynolds Foundation** served as sponsor. The evening consisted of a cocktail reception and dinner in honor of the recipients, and the presentation of the Ford's Theatre Lincoln Medals by President and Mrs. Bush with acceptance speeches-including favorite anecdotes about President Lincoln-by David Herbert Donald and Doris Kearns Goodwin. The evening's celebration concluded with a performance by Yolanda Adams and the United States Army chorus. This year and continuing through the Lincoln Bicentennial in 2009, Ford's Theatre will bestow the Ford's Theatre Lincoln Medal on those whose work has illuminated President Abraham Lincoln's life, legacy, and death in unparalleled ways through scholarship or in support of the institution.

In 2006 at the celebration for Ford's Theatre, President Bush remarked, "This is both a historical landmark and working stage ... you pay tribute to our great president, and his love of the arts."

"This year's recipients, Doris Kearns Goodwin and David Herbert Donald," says Ford's Theatre Chairman of the Board of Trustees Wayne R. Reynolds, "have connected us to President Abraham Lincoln bringing his legacy alive through their groundbreaking, eloquent and incredibly enlightening words."

Dr. David Herbert Donald is author of the acclaimed Lincoln, considered the definitive biography of the 16th president. Donald was the first to tell the story of Lincoln's life "as he saw it, making use only of the information and ideas that were available to him at the time. My purpose was to explain rather than judge." Donald humanized Lincoln by relying heavily on Lincoln's personal papers including manuscripts

and thousands of letters that came across his desk that until 1947 had been sealed by the Library of Congress.

Ford's Theatre Producing Director Paul R. Tetreault says "David Herbert Donald's book Lincoln makes him human ... he's critical of Lincoln, yet he tells it in a way that makes Lincoln accessible. It's incredibly inspirational, making him every man and truly showing us why he was and continues to be the people's president. Donald brings a level of humanity to his writings that is sometimes absent in scholarly work." Donald's Lincoln allows the reader to see and feel what Lincoln saw in the White House during the tumultuous times he served the nation.

Doris Kearns Goodwin is one of the nation's leading historians. Of her New York Times best-selling multiple biography, *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*, Tetreault comments, "This is a provocative look at the circle of men that Lincoln gathered around him during the nation's greatest crisis. It gives us not only a window into Lincoln but on those that surrounded him, his friends and his critics." Illuminating Lincoln's political genius as the prairie lawyer and one-term congressman who rises from obscurity to prevail over three nationally known and gifted rivals to become president, *Team of Rivals* profiles the entire team of personal and political competitors that Lincoln assembled to lead the country. Goodwin sheds a new light on how Lincoln's mastery of men shaped the most significant presidency in America's history.

The Ford's Theatre Lincoln Medal February 11th award ceremony at the White House was just the beginning of how Ford's Theatre will bring America's most beloved president to center stage for the Bicentennial celebration in 2009. Programming will include a commissioned play about Lincoln and his presidency by James Still as well as a series of Monday night special events that will include lectures, panel discussions, readings by theatre artists, Lincoln scholars, and noted personalities. Ford's Theatre will also inaugurate its first summer season with a presentation of programming tied to the Civil War. A complete announcement of Bicentennial programming and initiatives will be made at a later date.

Ford's Theatre is the only cultural landmark where diverse audiences of all ages can experience Abraham Lincoln's life, legacy, and love of the performing arts. Ford's Theatre Lincoln Medal recipients illuminate Lincoln's legacy of leadership, service, humanity, wisdom, eloquence and vision in unparalleled ways and, as Ford Theatre does, serve as a connection point and reminder of Lincoln's legacy.

SOURCE Ford's Theatre

Annalisa Rosmarin, +1-202-828-5069,

annalisa.rosmarin@fleishman.com, or Danny Maiello, +1-202-828-8899,

maiellod@fleishman.com, both for Ford's Theatr

Annalisa Rosmarin, +1-202-828-5069,

annalisa.rosmarin@fleishman.com, or Danny Maiello, +1-202-828-8899,

maiellod@fleishman.com, both for Ford's Theatr

Copyright 2007 News Provided by Comtex.

Record Number: 89276795