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sissippi and Louisiana. She has been a tireless advocate of the humanities in American civic life and has served on the Mississippi Humanities Council, the Federation of State Humanities Councils, and the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. She is my neighbor, and I know of her work and how much it has meant to so many of those ordinary citizens who might never have seen some of the things they saw but for her efforts. Thank you very much.

[*The President congratulated Ms. Whitman Prenshaw, and Hillary Clinton presented the prize.*]

It is a great personal honor for me to have the opportunity to present the next award to our good friend Sharon Percy Rockefeller, the president and chief executive officer of WETA from 1989 to 1994. She has led TV 26 in becoming the third largest producer of national programs for the Public Broadcasting Service. During her tenure, the weekly viewership of WETA TV 26 grew to an unprecedented one million viewers and WETA became a forerunner in the production of outstanding programming in the arts and humanities. Most notable among the long list of excellent programs is WETA's coproduction of Ken Burns' magnificent 1990 documentary, "The Civil War," the highest rated program in the history of public television.

[*The President congratulated Ms. Percy Rockefeller, and Hillary Clinton presented the prize.*]

You know what she said when I gave it to her? She said, "Don't forget 'Baseball'." And it was the only baseball we had this year. [*Laughter*]

Today, Dorothy Porter Wesley is recognized for her role as a preeminent archivist of African-Americana. During her 43-year tenure as the principal compiler of the black studies collection housed at Howard University's Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, she has set national standards for collecting, preserving, and making accessible thousands of books, pamphlets, manuscripts, portraits, and artifacts relating to blacks in America and in Africa. She was the visiting senior scholar at the W.E.B. DuBois Institute for Afro-American Research at Harvard University. She also is still in her heart a librarian. The first thing she asked me when I saw her today was whether I was using the White House Library. [*Laughter*] The second thing I did was get a reprimand for having four overdue books. [*Laughter*] Please welcome her here today.

[*The President congratulated Ms. Porter Wesley, and Hillary Clinton presented the prize.*]

The final presentation is of a Presidential Citizens Medal to an invaluable ally of the arts and humanities in Congress, the distinguished Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Claiborne Pell, of Rhode Island. Senator Pell is one of the founding fathers of the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. He has tirelessly served this country through legislative leadership and unwavering advocacy of the arts and humanities. As Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Education, Arts and Humanities, he's been instrumental in providing opportunities for artists in funding arts programs and preservation projects and in bringing the experience and the appreciation of the arts to communities all across this country.

Let us give him a warm round of applause. Senator Pell, congratulations. [*Applause*]

[*The President congratulated Senator Pell, and Hillary Clinton presented the medal.*]

Now, let's end this program with a thanks to the good Lord for keeping the rain away and a good round of applause to all of our honorees. [*Applause*]

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:52 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

Message on the Observance of National Arts and Humanities Month

October 14, 1994

The arts have long been an integral part of America's cultural heritage, encouraging us to gain a deeper understanding of ourselves and of our society. In a world too often beset by hatred and incivility, the arts and

humanities empower us to celebrate our individual identities, while reminding us of the values and commitments that unite us as a country.

Although the rich diversity of our nation would seem to preclude an official American culture, we have a powerful tradition of artistic expression and intellectual inquiry that honors every one of us equally. Through art, music, literature, history, and philosophy, we preserve and pass along, from generation to generation, our most cherished images, ideas, and beliefs.

For more than two centuries, the arts and humanities have helped Americans transcend political, religious, racial, and ethnic divisions by engaging us in the common task of interpreting and expressing the meaning of human experience. When we read each other's stores, discuss each other's ideas, and feel each other's emotions through dance, painting, and song, we come to understand the complexity and texture of each other's lives. In so doing, we gain a greater appreciation and understanding of the breadth of human thought and emotion. And we gain a more profound sense of our common purpose as Americans.

But if the arts and humanities are essential to appreciating and preserving our culture, they are also essential to our growth and renewal as a people. For it is only by deepening our understanding, unleashing our imaginations, and enlarging our capacities to see and to feel that we can envision a better future for ourselves, our communities, and our nation.

In the new and complicated century that awaits us, we will depend even more on our artists and humanists to help us discover the roots of our deepest beliefs and gain a vision of our most promising possibilities.

The month of October has been designated National Arts and Humanities Month, and I urge all Americans to celebrate the artistic and intellectual freedoms we enjoy and to reflect on the crucial role they play in reinvigorating and renewing our great nation every day.

Bill Clinton

NOTE: This message was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 14 but was not issued as a White House press release.

Statement on Federal Funding for the Homeless

October 14, 1994

I am pleased to announce the release of these much-needed funds to help feed, shelter, and give a hand-up to America's homeless. By involving local community organizations as we decide where to best allocate these resources, we will ensure that the most urgent needs in our communities are met.

NOTE: This statement was included in a White House statement announcing the release of $130 million in funding to feed and shelter the homeless.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

October 8

In the morning, the President and Hillary Clinton went to Camp David, MD.

October 9

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

October 11

In the morning, the President traveled to Dearborn, MI, where he toured the Ford Mustang plant.

In the afternoon, the President met with United Auto Workers union leaders at the Westin Renaissance Hotel in Detroit, MI. He then went to the Detroit Free Press Building where he met with the members of the newspaper's editorial board. He returned to Washington, DC, in the evening.

The President announced the nomination of Charles "Lindy" Marinaccio as a member