

CELEBRATING COURAGE

JOHN F. KENNEDY LIBRARY FOUNDATION

The Profile in Courage Award and Profiles in COVID Courage Awards



A book about courage - in a more profound sense a book about the meaning and substance of political responsibility. Eight examples of have been chosen. All eight were United States Senators. This does not mean that to become a Senator political courage is

CELEBRATING COURAGE

Sunday, May 16, 2021

Hosts

Caroline Kennedy and **Edwin Schlossberg**

Ronald L. Sargent Chairman
JFK Library Foundation

Co-Chairs

Paul and Sandy Edgerley

David H. Long
Chairman and CEO
Liberty Mutual Insurance

John F. Kennedy's notes in preparation of Profiles in Courage

"This is a book about courage—in a more profound sense a book about the meaning and substance of political responsibility. Eight examples have been chosen. All eight were United States Senators—This does not mean of course that political courage is found only in the Senate..."

"Since this country was founded, each generation of Americans has been summoned...Now the trumpet summons us again..."

President Kennedy, Inaugural Address, January 20, 1961

Dear Friends,

Sixty years ago, in his Inaugural Address, President Kennedy set forth a vision for America.

He asked that his fellow citizens commit to serving their country, define their own call to greatness, and join him in rising to meet the challenges of the times with courage and hope. His words and deeds have echoed throughout the decades, continuing to inspire people of all ages and from all walks of life.

While we cannot gather this year at the JFK Presidential Library, we are thrilled to come together in a new way and continue the Foundation's tradition of celebrating President Kennedy's belief that public service—and those who make it their life's work—can be a force for good in our world.

Never has it been more important for young people to realize their power to make a difference, and the JFK Library is honored to play a role in our national efforts to instill the ideals of civic engagement and service in tomorrow's leaders.

Thank you for your partnership and for joining us as we pay tribute to the quality that President Kennedy most admired—courage.

With gratitude,



Master of Ceremonies

Jimmy Fallon

Welcome

David H. Long, Celebration Co-Chair
Chairman and CEO, Liberty Mutual Insurance

Presentation of Awards

The Honorable Caroline Kennedy, Honorary President, JFK Library Foundation
Jack Schlossberg, Profile in Courage Award Committee, JFK Library Foundation

COVID Courage Honorees

Dr. Amy Acton / featuring Richard P. Lofgren, MD, MPH, FACP, President and CEO,
UC Health

Burnell Cotlon / featuring Laura Paul, Executive Director, lowernine.org

Fred Freeman / featuring Jeffrey Blanchard, Hanover Fire Chief and Joe Colangelo,
Hanover Town Manager

Antonio Greene / featuring Ashley Lansdale, Amazon Operations PR Manager

Lauren Leander, BSN, RN, CCRN / featuring mother, Sandy Keaton Leander

Darrell R. Marks / featuring sons Makaius and Makairyn Marks and Kim Hemingway,
Flagstaff High School Counselor

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer / featuring daughters Sherry and Sydney Shrewsbury;
David Axelrod, Profile in Courage Award Committee, JFK Library Foundation; and
Dr. Joneigh S. Khaldun, Chief Medical Executive and Chief Deputy Director for Health
and Human Services, Michigan

John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award Honoree

The Honorable Mitt Romney / featuring sons Tagg, Josh, Matt, Ben, and Craig Romney;
Paul and Sandy Edgerley, Celebration Co-Chairs; and The Honorable Claire McCaskill,
Profile in Courage Award Committee, JFK Library Foundation

Acceptance Remarks by Senator Mitt Romney

A Conversation on Courage

Moderated by Jimmy Fallon

WITH GRATITUDE

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List as of May 16, 2021

The JFK Library Foundation extends its profound gratitude to **Spencer Zwick** and **Beth Myers** for their leadership in ensuring the success of this night's program, which is being presented virtually in lieu of the Foundation's 33rd Annual May Dinner. Contributors are being recognized for their generous support of both the 2020 and 2021 events.

THE JOHN F. KENNEDY PROFILE IN COURAGE AWARD

Created in 1989, the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award™ is presented annually to public servants who have made courageous decisions of conscience without regard for the personal or professional consequences. The award is named for President Kennedy's 1957 Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *Profiles in Courage*, which recounts the stories of eight U.S. senators who risked their careers, incurring the wrath of constituents or powerful interest groups, by taking principled stands for unpopular positions.

The recipients of this prestigious award for political courage are selected by a distinguished bipartisan committee of national, political, and community leaders.

The Award is represented by a sterling silver ship's lantern, designed by Edwin Schlossberg and crafted by Tiffany and Co. In his description of the lantern's design and symbolism, Dr. Schlossberg said: "A lantern...evokes the shared cultural symbols of light and truth. Light is the beacon of warning, of safety, of hope in the wilderness. A lantern symbolizes the search for an honest person and is in keeping with the profound message of the work, *Profiles in Courage*, that a courageous person is one who is honest, has integrity, and finds their own path despite the darkness of outside pressures."

The Profile in Courage Award Committee

Martha Minow, *Chair*
The Honorable Stacey Abrams
David Axelrod
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Jack Schlossberg

"In whatever arena of life one may meet the challenge of courage, whatever may be the sacrifices he faces if he follows his conscience—the loss of his friends, his fortune, his contentment, even the esteem of his fellow men—each man must decide for himself the course he will follow. The stories of past courage can define that ingredient...But they cannot supply courage itself. For this each man must look into his own soul."

John F. Kennedy, *Profiles in Courage*



Photo by Liza Voll

JOHN F. KENNEDY PROFILE IN COURAGE AWARD HONOREE

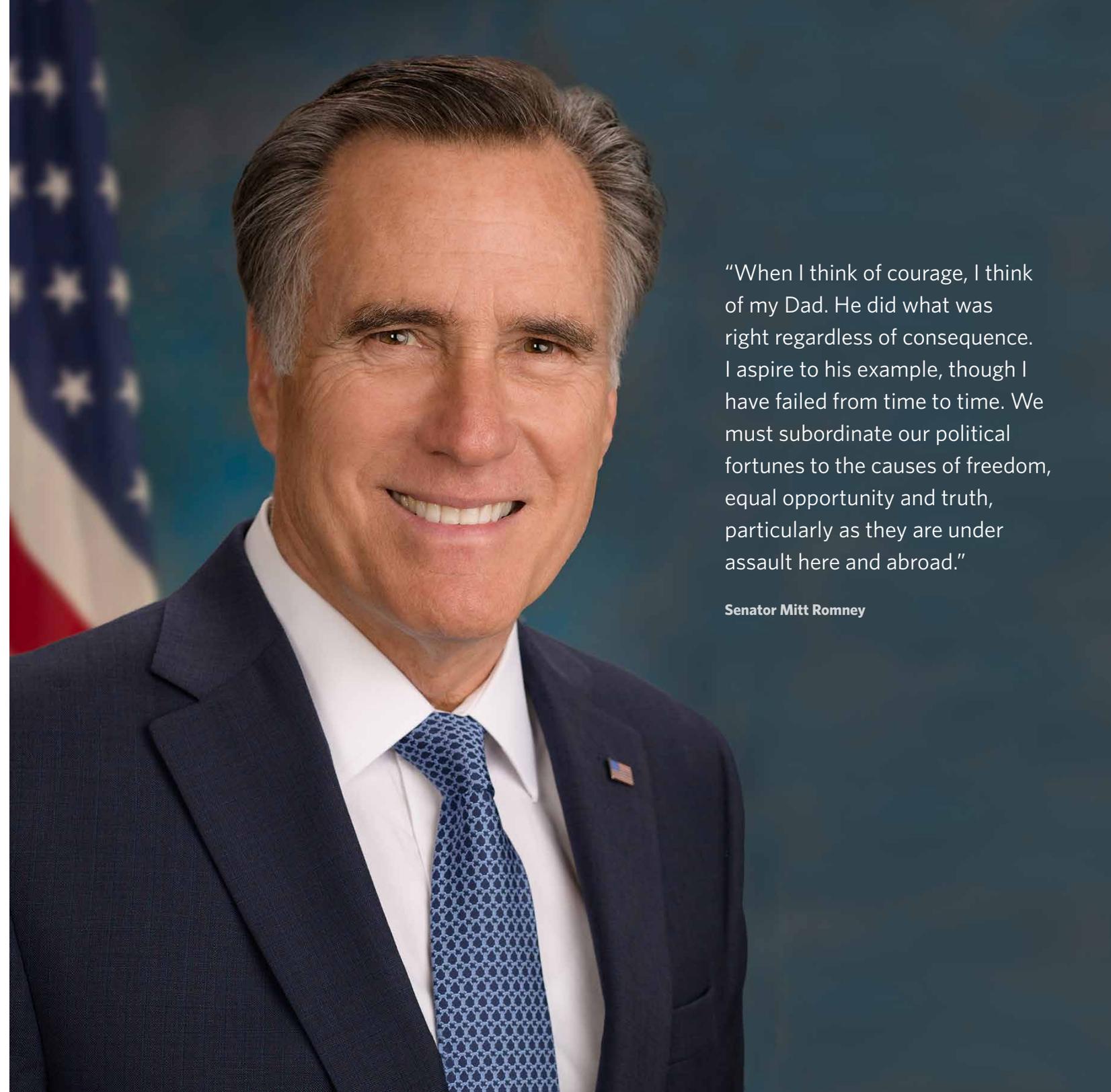
The Honorable Mitt Romney

U.S. Senator Mitt Romney (R-UT) is being honored with the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award for his historic vote to convict President Donald J. Trump in the 2020 impeachment trial.

During a time of grave threat to U.S. democratic institutions, Senator Romney has been a consistent Republican voice in defense of democracy and the rule of law. In February 2020, after weighing evidence that then-President Donald Trump withheld Congressionally authorized military aid for political gain, Romney voted to convict Trump for abuse of power.

As the first Senator to have ever voted to convict a President of his own party, Romney's courageous stand was historic. He characterized his impeachment vote as "the most difficult decision I have ever faced," and acknowledged that he would suffer significant political consequences. Nevertheless, Senator Romney said he could not "disregard what I believe my oath and the Constitution demands of me for the sake of a partisan end."

Despite facing criticism and public antagonism following this vote and demands that he be censured or expelled from the Republican Party, Romney has continued to courageously defend the fundamental principles of democratic governance. Following the 2020 Presidential election, when many leaders sought to reverse the results of the election by casting doubt on the legitimacy of the vote, Romney defended the integrity of the results and publicly opposed efforts to overturn the decision of the Electoral College. On January 6, after an attempted insurrection by supporters of outgoing President Trump at the U.S. Capitol, Romney spoke out again, calling on his fellow Republicans to tell the truth about Trump's loss. When this deadly attack resulted in an historic second impeachment trial of the former President, Romney and six Republican Senators voted to convict Trump of inciting the insurrection.



"When I think of courage, I think of my Dad. He did what was right regardless of consequence. I aspire to his example, though I have failed from time to time. We must subordinate our political fortunes to the causes of freedom, equal opportunity and truth, particularly as they are under assault here and abroad."

Senator Mitt Romney

THE PROFILES IN COVID COURAGE AWARDS

To honor the courage and national sacrifice witnessed in so many aspects of American life during the COVID-19 crisis, seven people who have risked their own health and safety to protect others in this time of critical need are being honored with a special Profile in Courage Award. Thousands of people from across the country submitted COVID Courage nominations, sharing deeply moving stories about the commitment and service of their friends, family, and community members.

The John F. Kennedy Library Foundation salutes all those on the front lines of the pandemic and congratulates the COVID Courage Awardees:

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer

Governor of Michigan



When Michigan's first cases of COVID-19 were identified in early March 2020, Governor Gretchen Whitmer invoked emergency powers in a bid to contain the spread of the virus and save lives, issuing early, controversial orders to close schools and businesses, mandate mask wearing, and ban large gatherings, among other measures.

While her leadership earned praise from many, she also faced sustained, vocal backlash over stay-at-home rules that remained in place as COVID-19 cases in Michigan continued to rise during the spring. Protests over Whitmer's pandemic response became increasingly threatening, with armed demonstrators surrounding, and at one point storming, the State Capitol to demand an end to stay-at-home orders. In October, thirteen men were charged with a June 2020 plot to kidnap Whitmer. The men were said to be motivated at least in part by anger and resentment over pandemic restrictions. Despite violent threats against her life, Whitmer did not back down. She stayed focused on following the science and listening to public health experts to get the pandemic under control and start rebuilding Michigan's economy.

"Governor Whitmer has been a steadfast partner in fighting this pandemic, and has put the health and safety of the people of Michigan first. She acted quickly, fighting from the outset for resources and testing for her state when they were scarce, and has stood strong in the face of enormous challenges to help save thousands of lives. She's been smart, she's been tough as nails, and she's done an incredible job steering her state through a turbulent time."

President Joseph R. Biden

"John Dingell served with three generations of Kennedys in Congress, and he shared their admiration of public servants with political courage and moral conviction. In his decades in elected office, John always put the people he served first, and that's exactly what Governor Whitmer has done at the helm of our state. She's led Michigan with guts, grace, and compassion, and we're lucky she's fighting for us."

Congresswoman Debbie Dingell (D-MI)

Dr. Amy Acton

Former Director, State Health Department, Ohio



Before COVID-19 had claimed the lives of more than a handful of Americans, Dr. Amy Acton, the first woman physician appointed to Ohio's top public health position, boldly proposed an aggressive shelter-in-place order to slow the spread of COVID-19. While

her leadership put Ohio ahead of most other states in responding to the virus, she became the target of protesters and legislators who sought to limit her power while engaging in personal attacks against her.

"Dr. Acton was a speaker of truth—even when that truth seemed unlikely, was ugly, needed to be spoken to power, or was professionally risky...Her intelligence and passion for public health made her a successful convener and her genuine empathy made her a trusted and natural public spokesperson... What you see in her public persona is exactly what she is outside of the spotlight. It was an honor to serve with her, learn from her, and to know her."

Joanne Pearsol, Former Deputy Director, Ohio Department of Health

Burnell Cotlon

Owner, Burnell's Market, Louisiana



In 2014, Burnell Cotlon spent his life savings to open the only fresh grocery store in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans. When the pandemic put many in his community out of work, Cotlon began allowing customers to take groceries on credit. Within a month, he'd

opened tabs for more than 60 customers who could no longer afford to buy food. Cotlon, an Army veteran who lived in a FEMA trailer for three years after Hurricane Katrina, missed mortgage payments on his own house as his store quickly lost revenue, but he continued to offer lines of credit and even gave away food to customers.

"Burnell is a true friend and neighbor, and a boon to his community. His store acts as a common space, a touchstone for the Lower Ninth Ward, and a beacon to all who hope to create and sustain successful small businesses—both here and across the country. His is a true success story, and it is an honor to know him."

Laura Paul, Director of lowernine.org

THE PROFILES IN COVID COURAGE AWARDS

Fred Freeman

Fire Department Captain, Massachusetts



Fred Freeman, who serves as a captain in the Hanover, Massachusetts fire department and is a registered nurse, led the establishment of an innovative Mobile Integrated Health Unit allowing the town of Hanover to deliver COVID-19 testing and other critical health services

directly to residents in their homes. The program—a partnership between the Hanover Fire Department and South Shore Health System—allows vulnerable patients to remain at home, slowing the spread of the virus and alleviating pressure on a health care system already strained by the pandemic.

“Captain Freeman has been instrumental in protecting and supporting the citizens and students of Hanover with his vision, his hard work, and his dedication to the health and well-being of this community. He has shown professional and personal courage not only in his determination to create a brand new Mobile Integrated Health Program during a crisis, but he is also a front-line firefighter, registered nurse, and a paramedic who provides direct care, testing and emergency response for the Town of Hanover, putting the needs of the community above his own health and safety.”

Matthew Ferron, Superintendent of Schools; **Deborah St. Ives**, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction; **Keith Guyette**, Director of Student Services; **Thomas Raab, Ed.D.**, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Finance; **Patricia Smith**, Director of Health Services

Antonio Greene

Amazon Associate and former Delivery Associate, South Carolina



Delivery workers have been lifelines to many during the COVID-19 crisis. Like many others, Amazon Associate Antonio Greene risks his own health every day to make sure community members receive the things they need to survive and thrive during the pandemic.

Last summer while working as a Delivery Associate for an Amazon Delivery Service Partner (DSP) in Charleston, SC, Greene noticed a sign on the door of customer’s home which alerted visitors that the occupant was undergoing chemotherapy and was immunocompromised. Shortly after leaving the package at the customer’s doorstep, Greene returned with flowers and a message of support addressed to the man. A week later, Greene stopped by again just to check in, forging an unexpected bond between the two men.

“Between leaving notes for his coworkers and showing kindness to many customers and continuing to show concern and compassion for the customer and his wife after our team moved to another area, this world needs more humans like Antonio. People who truly care about everyone they meet and always have an encouraging word.”

Frank Bowdoin, President, Precise Logistical Services

Lauren Leander, RN, BSN, CCRN

Intensive Care Nurse, Arizona



On April 20, 2020, Lauren Leander, an ICU nurse who cares for critically ill COVID-19 patients, stood with three of her colleagues in support of stay-at-home orders that were critical to slowing the spread of the virus during the early days of the pandemic.

Leander’s courageous, silent counterprotest at a rally of hundreds of angry protesters demanding that the state of Arizona immediately reopen was captured in a now-iconic photo in which an unmasked protester stood before her at close range. Leander stood in silence as rally attendees intentionally coughed on her and her fellow nurses and accused them of being paid actors. Leander has utilized her new platform to create a GoFundMe page to help raise over \$286,000 dollars that has been used for PPE, medical supplies and compassion fatigue gifts for Navajo and Hopi frontline nurses.

“Lauren continues to take great risk in working the COVID-19 unit and serving as a voice for some of the most vulnerable people in our communities at a time when speaking out remains controversial. ASU is proud to have her as an alum, as she is an excellent example for our students and all people. She is a beacon of hope and reason for citizens in Arizona and around the world during uncertain and challenging times, and an exemplary model of courage in the face of adversity.”

Michael Crow, President, Arizona State University

Darrell R. Marks

Native American Academic Advisor, Arizona



Darrell Marks, an indigenous Dine’/Navajo and the Native American Academic Advisor for Flagstaff High School, advocates for the rights and works to meet the unmet needs of the Navajo and Hopi tribal communities. Marks, a single parent raising two teenaged sons, has

coordinated deliveries of food and supplies to Navajo and Hopi families struggling during the pandemic; advocated for voting rights in the face of efforts to disenfranchise Native Americans; worked to provide access to remote learning opportunities in tribal areas made even more isolated by COVID-19; and served as a personal counselor and resource to students struggling with loss and depression.

“Darrell is a man who has utilized his faith and traditional Navajo values and his relationships with students, families, and communities to serve with heroism throughout this pandemic. Darrell, even while experiencing his own family losses during this pandemic, has assisted in advocating for and supporting students with traditional grieving ceremonies and with sharing knowledge with the school to increase understanding and support of these students.”

Joan P. Dewey, LCSW, Flagstaff High School Social Worker



John F. Kennedy takes the stage at the Indiana State Fairgrounds Coliseum during his presidential campaign. Photo by Joe Young for Indianapolis News on October 4, 1960.

ABOUT THE JOHN F. KENNEDY PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND FOUNDATION

The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum is the official national memorial to our thirty-fifth president. Located on a ten-acre park, overlooking the sea that he loved and the city that launched him to greatness, the Library stands as a vibrant tribute to the life and times of John F. Kennedy. The JFK Library Foundation leverages public funds with private philanthropy, supporting the Library's efforts to celebrate the ideals of a young, energetic president whose words and deeds resonate with individuals across generations and geography. Together, the Library and Foundation carry forward President Kennedy's legacy to teach people about the past, create connections in the present, and challenge today's youth to take up the torch of leadership for the future.



INSPIRING A NEW GENERATION

During this time of isolation and division, the Library has reimagined its work through innovative online programming and educational resources—continuing to inspire young people with President Kennedy’s call to build a better world for all. We thank you for partnering with us as we help light the way with virtual live education programs; the popular and thought provoking *Kennedy Library Forums*; a performing arts series that promotes the rich cultural diversity of our society; and a best-in-class digital archive to make the lessons of the Kennedy presidency accessible across the globe.



Children participate in an interactive presentation in the Library's Space Race exhibit during a day of community programming.

2021 PROFILE IN COURAGE ESSAY CONTEST WINNER

Anna Dougherty

Paul VI High School in Haddonfield, New Jersey

The Profile in Courage Essay Contest challenges high school students to write an original and creative essay that demonstrates an understanding of political courage as described by President Kennedy in his book *Profiles in Courage*. Anna Dougherty's winning essay, selected from 2,290 submissions, describes the political courage of Dana Redd, the first Black woman to serve as mayor of Camden, New Jersey. In 2013, Redd faced fierce opposition when she made the difficult decision to disband her city's police force to form a county-run police department. By standing firm in her unpopular choice, Mayor Redd took personal and professional risks to make Camden safer for its residents. Ultimately, Redd's act of political courage benefited the city of Camden, as crime rates decreased after the new county-run department was established.

"I still remember turning in my essay for this same contest as a teenager. I wrote about then-Congressman Bernie Sanders' political courage, never guessing we would share a debate stage twenty years later."

Secretary Pete Buttigieg

FIRST CHILDREN: CAROLINE AND JOHN JR. IN THE KENNEDY WHITE HOUSE

When President John F. Kennedy and First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy moved into the White House, they brought with them the youngest children to live in the storied building since the Cleveland Administration—capturing the attention and affection of the public at home and abroad.

While the JFK Library remains closed due to COVID-19, we hope you will join us when we reopen to explore *First Children: Caroline and John Jr. in the Kennedy White House*, a heartwarming, family-friendly new exhibition. Through more than 150 artifacts, archival documents,

audiovisual recordings, and photographs—most of which have never been displayed before—the exhibition will bring the young family's thousand days in the White House to life. Featured items will include dolls and gifts presented to the children by foreign dignitaries and heads of state; hand-written notes and pictures sent by schoolchildren across the nation; newspaper clippings and magazines; and more.

For more information or to be notified when the JFK Library plans to reopen, please connect with us at events@JFKLFoundation.org.





“Let the public service be a proud and lively career. And let every man and woman who works in any area of our national government...be able to say with pride and with honor in future years: ‘I served the United States government in that hour of our nation’s need.’”

President John F. Kennedy in his first
State of the Union Address on January 30, 1961

JOHN F. KENNEDY PROFILE IN COURAGE AWARD RECIPIENTS

2019	Nancy Pelosi	1999	John McCain Russell Feingold
2018	Mitch Landrieu	1998	Peacemakers of Northern Ireland Nickolas Murnion
2017	Barack H. Obama	1997	Charles Price
2016	Dannel P. Malloy	1996	Corkin Cherubini
2015	Bob Inglis	1995	Michael Synar
2014	George H. W. Bush Paul W. Bridges	1994	Henry Gonzalez
2013	Gabrielle "Gabby" Giffords	1993	James Florio
2012	David Baker, Michael Streit, Marsha Ternus Robert Ford	1992	Lowell Weicker, Jr.
2011	Elizabeth Redenbaugh Wael Ghonim and the People of Egypt	1991	Charles Weltner
2010	Karen Bass, David Cogdill, Darrell Steinberg and Michael Villines	1990	Carl Elliott, Sr.
2009	Edward M. Kennedy Brooksley Born Sheila Bair Leymah Gbowee and the Women of Liberia		
2008	William Winter Debra Bowen Jennifer Brunner		
2007	Doris Voitier Bill White		
2006	John Murtha Alberto Mora		
2005	Viktor Yushchenko Bill Ratliff Shirley Franklin Joseph Darby		
2004	Cindy Watson Sima Samar Paul Muegge		
2003	Dan Ponder, Jr. David Beasley Roy Barnes		
2002	Public Servants of September 11 Dean Koldenhoven Kofi Annan		
2001	Gerald Ford John Lewis		
2000	Hilda Solis		

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