

JOHN F. KENNEDY LIBRARY FOUNDATION

PROFILE IN COURAGE AWARD GALA





BAZENPILS Alle Hatzlaufe

CELEBRATING THE PAST TO AWAKEN THE FUTURE

To mark the 60th Anniversary of President Kennedy's thousand days in office, the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation has launched blockbuster digital campaigns and hosted a series of historic events both at home and abroad. Thanks to the generosity of our partners, the JFK60 celebration has engaged hundreds of millions of individuals around the world—inspiring and activating a new generation of global leaders to build a better tomorrow.

JFK*60

To learn more about our JFK60 commemorations and about attending future programs, we invite you to visit our website at jfklibrary.org/JFK60 and connect with us at events@jfkfoundation.org.

On June 26, 1963, President Kennedy stepped onto a platform at the Rudolph Wilde Platz in Berlin before a crowd of 450,000 people, delivering what has come to be known as his "Ich bin ein Berliner" speech—an emotional and defiant address that championed freedom and democracy. From Berlin, he flew to Dublin for a meaningful visit to his ancestral homeland of Ireland—a visit he called "the best four days of his life."



Invocation

Rabbi Caryn Broitman
Martha’s Vineyard Hebrew Center

Welcome

Ronald L. Sargent
Chairman, JFK Library Foundation

Robert F. Rivers
2023 Gala Chair
Chair and CEO, Eastern Bank

Dinner

2023 John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award Ceremony

Introduction

Tatiana Schlossberg
Profile in Courage Award Committee and Board of Directors, JFK Library Foundation

Presentation of Awards to the Leaders of South Korea and Japan

Ambassador Caroline Kennedy
Honorary President, JFK Library Foundation

His Excellency Yoon Suk Yeol, President of the Republic of Korea (by video)
His Excellency Fumio Kishida, Prime Minister of Japan (by video)

Presentation of Awards to the Sister Senators of South Carolina

Jack Schlossberg
Profile in Courage Award Committee, JFK Library Foundation

The Honorable Penry Gustafson, South Carolina 27th (R)
The Honorable Sandy Senn, South Carolina 41st (R)
The Honorable Mia McLeod, South Carolina 22nd (I)
The Honorable Margie Bright Matthews, South Carolina 45th (D)
The Honorable Katrina Shealy, South Carolina 23rd (R)

WITH GRATITUDE

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Write the World

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Schooner Foundation
United States-Japan Foundation
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Senator Margie Bright Matthews,
Senate District 45 (D)
McKinsey & Company
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Anonymous (2)

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. 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

- B. Marc Allen
- David Axelrod
- The Honorable Joaquin Castro
- The Honorable Carlos Curbelo
- The Honorable Christopher J. Dodd
- Sherrilyn Ifill
- Marne Levine
- The Honorable Claire McCaskill
- Admiral William H. McRaven (Ret.)
- Beth Myers
- Ronald L. Sargent
- Jack Schlossberg
- Tatiana Schlossberg

“The true democracy, living and growing and inspiring, puts its faith in the people—faith that the people will not condemn those whose devotion to principle leads them to unpopular courses, but will reward courage, respect honor and ultimately recognize right.”

John F. Kennedy, *Profiles in Courage*



Photo by Liza Voll

2023 JOHN F. KENNEDY PROFILE IN COURAGE AWARD HONOREES

The Sister Senators of South Carolina



**The Honorable
Katrina Shealy
South Carolina 23rd (R)**



**The Honorable
Margie Bright Matthews
South Carolina 45th (D)**

The 2023 John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award is being presented to the “Sister Senators” of South Carolina—three Republicans, one Independent, and one Democrat—for overcoming an atmosphere of overwhelming polarization and forming a bipartisan coalition to protect abortion rights in their state.

In April 2023, the only women in the South Carolina Senate, Katrina Shealy (R), Margie Bright Matthews (D), Mia McLeod (I), Sandy Senn (R), and Penry Gustafson (R), held a two-day filibuster to block a near-total abortion ban in South Carolina. During the filibuster, each of the five lawmakers took turns describing the complexities of pregnancy and the reproductive system, the dangers of lack of access to contraception, and inadequate privacy laws. Senators Bright Matthews and McLeod even publicly shared their deeply personal experiences with the subject on the Senate floor. Their filibuster halted passage of the ban.

In the immediate aftermath of their filibuster, the Sister Senators were heckled and harassed by anti-abortion activists. The three Republicans were also met with strong opposition from their own party—including censures and promises of primary challenges in 2024. Weeks later, when the governor called the South Carolina legislature into a special session to further curtail abortion rights, the Sister Senators remained in alliance and stood strong in opposition to a measure banning most abortions at the 6th week of pregnancy. Despite their efforts, that legislation was eventually passed into law.



**The Honorable
Mia McLeod
South Carolina 22nd (I)**



**The Honorable
Sandy Senn
South Carolina 41st (R)**



**The Honorable
Penry Gustafson
South Carolina 27th (R)**

The Leaders of South Korea and Japan



**His Excellency Yoon Suk Yeol
President of the Republic of Korea**

A special international Profile in Courage Award is being presented to the leaders of South Korea and Japan for working to improve relations between their countries, despite domestic opposition stemming from historical issues.

On August 18, 2023, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida joined President Joseph R. Biden at Camp David to solidify a historic level of trilateral cooperation between the U.S. and two of its most important democratic allies. This moment was possible because President Yoon and Prime Minister Kishida have courageously worked to address sensitive historical issues that have prevented close cooperation.

Despite strong opposition in South Korea, President Yoon began working toward rapprochement with Japan shortly after his election in March 2022. Since then, the two leaders have built a strong personal relationship, allowing them to resolve difficult historical issues. In March 2023, President Yoon made a bilateral visit to Tokyo, the first by a South Korean leader in 12 years. Two months later, Prime Minister Kishida became the first Japanese Prime Minister in 12 years to make a bilateral visit to South Korea, and in May, he welcomed President Yoon to the G7 meetings hosted by Japan in Hiroshima.

Both leaders chose a more hopeful future for their countries as opposed to being held captive by the past. The August meeting at Camp David affirmed the progress made between the two countries and set the stage for increasing trilateral cooperation with the United States.

“I applaud President Yoon and Prime Minister Kishida for the tremendous courage and political bravery they have demonstrated in committing themselves to strengthening bilateral ties between their countries. Strong and sustained engagement between two of our closest allies is essential to preserving our shared vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific.”

U.S. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken



**His Excellency Fumio Kishida
Prime Minister of Japan**

LIGHTING THE WAY AT THE JFK 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 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.

THE 2023 PROFILE IN COURAGE ESSAY CONTEST

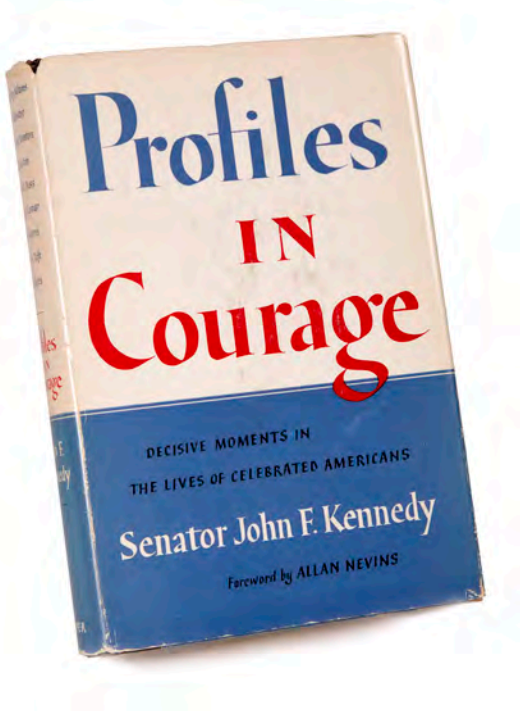
The Profile in Courage Essay Contest challenges high school students to write an original and creative essay that demonstrates an understanding of political courage as described by President Kennedy in his book *Profiles in Courage*.

This year’s winner is **Jeremy Haynes** from Mobile Christian School in Mobile, Alabama. Haynes’s winning essay, selected from 2,199 submissions, describes the political courage of former Alabama State Senator Joseph Langan, who in 1949 took a bold stand against an amendment that would disenfranchise Black citizens in his state. Haynes describes how Langan was ousted in his reelection campaign for protecting voting rights of all citizens in Alabama.

The Profile in Courage Essay Contest is generously sponsored by The Boeing Company.



Scan to Read the Essay



JFK★60

In 1963 President Kennedy delivered landmark addresses—presenting his vision for world peace at American University on June 10th, and addressing the nation on civil rights on the 11th from the Oval Office. Responding to threats of violence and obstruction on the University of Alabama campus following desegregation attempts, he called on Americans to view civil rights as a moral issue, one that was “as old as the scriptures” and “as clear as the American Constitution.”



JFK*60

In a speech at Amherst College on October 26, 1963, President Kennedy recognized the arts as critical to the national spirit, honoring Robert Frost and saying “when power corrupts, poetry cleanses.” The two men had a mutual respect and admiration for one another. President Kennedy had invited Frost to deliver the first poem at a presidential inauguration, and Frost also joined the President and First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy at the White House for a dinner honoring Nobel Laureates in 1962.

Photo by Art Rickerby, The LIFE Picture Collection

SERVICE AND SACRIFICE: WORLD WAR II—A SHARED EXPERIENCE

July 4, 2023 – January 5, 2025

Sixteen million Americans served in the armed forces during World War II. They came from every part of the country and from every class, every race, and every gender. This exhibition tells the less-told stories of the individuals who served in the war—often when they were denied equal rights at home—and also tells the story of the war’s impact on John F. Kennedy, his brother, and his family. The exhibit includes artifacts, correspondence, and photographs from individuals across the country whose families were touched by the war.



IN MEMORY OF EDWARD J. HOFF

June 14, 1955 – June 26, 2023



Ted Hoff and Kathleen O'Connell
at the Foundation's Annual Gala in 2014

On June 26, 2023, the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation bid farewell to one of its dearest friends and benefactors: Edward J. “Ted” Hoff.

Ted was personally invited by Senator Edward Kennedy to serve on the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation’s Board of Directors, a commitment he held with distinction since 2001. One of the Foundation’s longest-serving directors, Ted worked on many of the organization’s most important initiatives, including the *Access to a Legacy* digital archives project, which he helped lead during his tenure at IBM. Ted served on over six committees across his twenty-two years of service, most recently as Co-Chair of the Strategic Initiatives Committee and as a member of the Executive and Governance Committees. Ted also spent the last several years working closely with Foundation leadership to develop its *JFK: Lessons from a Legacy* leadership program for corporate partners.

Deeply committed to the Foundation’s mission and to President Kennedy’s legacy, Ted gave generously and personally and was among the Foundation’s lead donors. He will be remembered for his extraordinary kindness and warmth, his generous spirit, and his dedication to his family and to President Kennedy’s values of service, courage, excellence, and inclusion—all of which he modeled in his own life.

The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum has inspired new generations to service and has become a globally recognized center for learning and discovery thanks to the support of Ted’s extraordinary contributions.

The Board of Directors and staff of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation will be forever grateful to Ted and his wife, Kathleen O’Connell, for their commitment to the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, and to the memory of the President it celebrates.

At this 35th Annual Profile in Courage Award Gala, we extend a warm embrace to Kathleen and to Ted and Kathleen’s sons, Thomas and Michael, as we remember Ted with our deepest appreciation, admiration, and affection.

JOHN F. KENNEDY PROFILE IN COURAGE AWARD RECIPIENTS

2022	Volodymyr Zelenskyy Liz Cheney Jocelyn Benson Russell “Rusty” Bowers Wandrea’ ArShaye Moss	2001	Gerald Ford John Lewis
2021	Mitt Romney	2000	Hilda Solis
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		

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