

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

FACT SHEET

PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

The Medal of Freedom as it now exists was established by President Kennedy in an Executive Order (11085) of February 22, 1963. The award was first set up under President Truman in 1945 to reward meritorious, war-connected acts or services. The Kennedy Executive Order expanded the award to include those that should be honored for meritorious contribution to (a) security or national interest of the United States; (b) world peace or (c) cultural or other significant public or private endeavors.

Persons are selected for receipt of this medal by the President.

President Ford is making his third Medal of Freedom presentation today. The previous two were issued on February 10, 1976 to David K. E. Bruce and on April 1, 1976 to Artur Rubinstein, joining the list today is Jesse Owens.

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