

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 fourth Medal of Freedom presentation today. On February 10, 1976 he issued one to David K. E. Bruce. On April 1, 1976 he issued one to Artur Rubinstein. On August 5, 1976, he issued one to Jesse Owens. Joining the list today is Martha Graham.

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