

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 18, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

FACT SHEET

The President today awarded the National Medal of Science, the Nation's highest award for distinguished achievements and outstanding contributions to science and engineering development, to fifteen 1975 recipients, one posthumously.

BACKGROUND

The National Medal of Science was established in 1959 by the 86th Congress. It is presented to individuals who, in the judgment of the President, "are deserving of special recognition by reason of their outstanding contributions to knowledge in the physical, biological, mathematical, or engineering sciences." The medal has been awarded previously to 102 distinguished scientists and engineers in the United States.

AWARD WINNERS

John W. Backus, IBM Fellow, IBM San Jose Research Laboratory, San Jose, California

For his pioneering contributions to computer programming languages, especially development of the FORTRAN language which made the modern digital computer directly available to countless scientists and engineers.

Manson Benedict, Institute Professor, Emeritus, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

For inspired and ingenious leadership in the development of gaseous diffusion plants for uranium isotope separation, and for his role in creating the discipline of nuclear engineering.

Hans A. Bethe, Emeritus John Wendell Anderson Professor of Physics, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

For his explanation of the origin of the sun's heat, his many contributions to our understanding of the atomic nucleus and his counsel in matters involving atomic energy.

Shiing-Shen Chern, Professor of Mathematics, University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, California

For developing and extending techniques that led to profound discoveries in geometry and topology.

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George B. Dantzig, Professor of Operations Research and Computer Science, Stanford University, Stanford, California

For inventing linear programming and discovering methods that led to wide-scale scientific and technical applications to important problems in logistics, scheduling, and network optimization, and to the use of computers in making efficient use of the mathematical theory.

Hallowell Davis, Emeritus Professor of Physiology and Research Professor of Otolaryngology, Washington University, Director Emeritus of Research, Central Institution for the Deaf, St. Louis, Missouri

For fundamental research on nerve potentials, electroencephalography, and mechanisms of hearing that have formed the basis for advances in neurophysiology, neurology, otolaryngology, audiology, acoustics, occupational health safety, and pediatrics.

Paul Gyorgy (deceased), Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics, University of Pennsylvania, School of Medicine, Consultant, Philadelphia General Hospital, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

For his discovery of three vitamins and related research that have greatly improved human nutrition.

Sterling Brown Hendricks, (Formerly) Chief Chemist, Plant Industry Station, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Beltsville, Maryland

For the initiation of basic research in the physical and chemical properties of soils and proteins that have profoundly influenced agricultural practices and the production of food plants.

Joseph O. Hirschfelder, Homer Adkins Professor of Theoretical Chemistry, University of Wisconsin - Madison, Madison, Wisconsin

For his fundamental contribution to atomic and molecular quantum mechanics, the theory of the rates of chemical reactions, and the structure and properties of gases and liquids.

William H. Pickering, Director Emeritus, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Professor, Electrical Engineering, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California

For his leadership of the exploration of the planets of the solar system and his personal contributions to the theory and practice of soft planetary landings and collection of data from deep space.

Lewis H. Sarett, Senior Vice President for Science and Technology, Merck and Company, Inc., Rahway, New Jersey

For his pioneering contributions to the chemical synthesis of cortisone, steroidal hormones, and other chemotherapeutic agents which have contributed to the benefit of mankind.

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Frederick E. Terman, Vice President and Provost Emeritus,
Stanford University, Stanford, California

For his principal role in creating modern electronics
and his ability to document his knowledge so that it
could be effectively communicated to his many students
who now populate the worlds of industry, academia,
and public service.

Orville Alvin Vogel, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Professor
Emeritus, Department of Agronomy and Soils, Washington State
University, Pullman, Washington

For outstanding contributions to agronomic research
including the development of radically new and
improved semidwarf varieties of wheat that now
grow on five continents and have made the Green
Revolution a reality.

E. Bright Wilson, Jr., Theodore William Richards Professor
of Chemistry, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts

In recognition of his fundamental theoretical and
experimental contribution to our understanding of
the structure of molecules.

Chien-Shiung Wu, Michael I. Pupin Professor of Physics,
Columbia University, New York, New York

For her ingenious experiments that led to new and
surprising understanding of the decay of the
radioactive nucleus.

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