

January 10, 1977

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President Monday will present the Medal of Freedom to 22 outstanding Americans in a ceremony at noon in the East Room. The ceremony will be followed by a receiving line in the Great Hall, a photograph at the Grand Staircase and a luncheon in the State Dining Room.

The President will make brief remarks at the beginning of the ceremony. There will be full coverage. The cameras may set up in the East Room at 11 a. m.

There will be no coverage of the receiving line, but there will be pool coverage of the group photograph on the Grand Staircase.

There will be no coverage of the luncheon.

The Medal of Freedom was established by an Executive Order on February 22, 1963. The award was originally established in 1945 to recognize meritorious and war - connected acts of service, and it was expanded in 1963 to honor persons for meritorious contributions to the areas of security or national interest of the United States, world peace or cultural or other significant public or private endeavors.

Of the 22 persons selected to receive the honor in Monday's ceremony, 15 will be accepted by the persons honored, four will be accepted by representatives and three will be presented at a later date.

The Press Release announcing the recipients is available in the Press Office.

Those represented by others include: John Bardeen, who will be represented by his son, William Bardeen; Joe DiMaggio, represented by his brother, Dominick DiMaggio; Archibald MacLeish, represented by his nephew, Roderick MacLeish; and Norman Rockwell, represented by his son, Jarvis Rockwell.

Those who will receive the award at a later date include: Irving Berlin, Georgia O'Keefe, and the award presented to Alexander Calder, which will be presented to his widow at a later date.

The pool for the group photograph:

The Wires
 ABC Correspondent
 Storer Correspondent
 New York Times
 Newsweek
 Cameramen and photographers
 Lighting Technician

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