CONGRESSMAN JOHN LEWIS HONORED WITH FREEDOM AWARD

U.S. Capitol Historical Society members, Congressional leaders, and distinguished guests gathered in Statuary Hall in November to honor Representative John Lewis for his lifetime of activism to extend civil rights to all Americans. The Society presented the prestigious Freedom Award to the Honorable John Lewis on the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Below: House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy cited the hardships Lewis endured in his campaign for civil rights. “His enemies had tear gas, nightsticks, dogs, and whips. John confronted the handcuffs and imprisonment, death threats and fallen brothers. He showed physical courage. But he also demonstrated the highest moral courage. John did not match violence with violence.”

Above: When presenting the Freedom Award to Lewis, USCHS President Ron Sarasin noted, “As a civil rights leader and a Member of Congress, John has shaped our concept of freedom and expanded the definition of democracy. He has transformed our nation and left an enduring legacy for the future.”

Above: Lynda Johnson Robb, former First Lady of Virginia and daughter of President Lyndon Johnson, recognized Lewis’s key role in the civil rights movement in the 1960s. She noted that whenever her father needed him, John was there. Robb added that the circumstances leading to her father’s “We Shall Overcome” speech would not have occurred “if John Lewis hadn’t had the courage to cross the Pettus Bridge.” Appropriately, Robb stood before the statue of Rosa Parks as she addressed the audience.
Robb acknowledged the close ties between her family and John Lewis. To capture the essence of Lewis’s work, she quoted President Johnson: “Our mission is at once the oldest and the most basic of this country: to right wrongs, to do justice, and to serve man.”

In the final analysis, we are one people, one family, the human family. We all live in one house, the American house, the world house. My friends, we must keep the faith. We must continue until we create a nation and a world community that is finally at peace with itself.

If it hadn’t been for the spirit of history moving across our land, and the involvement of hundreds, thousands, and millions of citizens of good will, the president and Members of Congress, I wouldn’t be standing here tonight.

If you were to summarize all the arguments made in these chambers from the beginning of this nation’s founding until this very day, most of them revolve around the true meaning of freedom.

The search for freedom is the core of every conflict. It is the foundation of every great speech. It is written on the heart of every man. It calls from the depths of every woman’s soul.
Above: Lewis signs a program for **Casey Dinges** (American Society of Civil Engineers).

Right: **Richard Merski** (Cigna) chats with **Rob Lively** (USCHS Board Member) and **Doug Centilli** (Joint Economic Committee).

Above: **Carla Blake** (Baker, Donelson, Bearman & Caldwell, P.C.) and Lewis

Above: **Ron Sarasin** (USCHS President), **Tom Coleman** (USCHS Chairman of the Board), and Majority Leader **Kevin McCarthy**

Above: **David Poisson**, **Connie Tipton** (International Dairy Foods Association and USCHS Board Member), **Peter Larkin** (National Grocers Association), and his wife, **Jody Larkin**

Above: **Mark Valente III** (Valente & Associates and USCHS Board Member), **Brett Loper** (American Express Company and USCHS Board Member), and Rep. **Keith Rothfus**

Above: **Brian Pallasch** (American Society of Civil Engineers) and Lewis
On November 12, C. Joseph Genetin-Pilawa of the Department of History and Art History of George Mason University presented an illustrated lecture on the letter writing campaign organized by Native American activist Leta Myers Smart that resulted in the removal of two mid-19th-century statue groups from the Capitol’s east front center steps. He covered several different issues surrounding the two groups, including nineteenth-century critiques from Members of Congress and others; Smart’s various strategies for arguing for the statues’ removal from their prominent placement at the Capitol; and their whereabouts since their removal in the 1850s.

Students from Sherwood High School in Olney, MD came to a December forum in the Capitol Visitor Center to watch Dalip Singh Saund: His Life, His Legacy, a documentary film produced by The Heritage Series in association with the U.S. Capitol Historical Society and the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies. The film is part of the Asian Pacific American Members of Congress History Project.

Multiple Members of Congress spoke to the students, including Representatives Chris Van Hollen (MD), Michael Honda (CA), and Mark Takano (CA). A panel of Hill staffers also spoke to students and took questions about their work and experiences on the Hill. They included Moh Sharma (policy advisor for the House Democratic Caucus under Rep. Xavier Becerra), Nisha Ramachandran (legislative fellow for Rep. Ami Bera), Chay Halbert (legislative aide to Rep. Takano), and Krystal Ka’ai (executive director of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus).

Rep. Chris Van Hollen

A panel of Congressional staffers spoke with the students.

Rep. Mark Takano

The students asked questions directly.

Rep. Michael Honda
The Society’s annual spring symposium is scheduled for May 7-8, beginning with a keynote address on the evening of Thursday, May 7 and continuing through a full-day of presentations on Friday, May 8. The subject of the 2015 symposium is the end of the Civil War and its aftermath—both the short term and long term effects of that bloody and divisive conflict as it pertained to Congress and the federal government. More details on the conference will be posted on the website and in emails to Society members. To be placed on the Society’s email list, go to the Society’s home page (www.uschs.org) and click on the “sign up for our email list” icon.

Student Essay Contest Deadline

The U.S. Capitol Historical Society has already received early entries to the 2014-15 Making Democracy Work Student Essay Contest. Middle and high school students have until June 5, 2015 to submit their entries to this nationwide contest. It is open to all students in two categories: a junior division contest for students in grades 6-8 and a senior division contest for students in grades 9-12.

In each division, first place prizes include $1,000 and a trip to Washington, DC to accept the prize. Second place winners will receive $500, and third place winners will receive $250. The schools of the two first place winners will also receive a $1,000 award.

“We are proud to offer talented students the opportunity to showcase their thoughtful perspectives about what it means to be an American citizen today,” said Ronald A. Sarasin, President of the U.S. Capitol Historical Society. “We hope our contest will be a catalyst for an important national discussion about democracy, citizenship, voting rights, and our collective responsibilities as Americans.”

The topic of the 2014-15 school year contest is: Why is voting rights an important issue in American History? The Voting Rights Act of 1965 will be 50 years old in 2015. Why is voting so important to this nation, and why has the extension of voting rights been such an important and controversial issue in American history? Some things you might want to consider in your essay: 1) the relationship between voting and citizenship; 2) how, when, and why voting rights were extended to various groups, and the arguments for and against such decisions; 3) how voting rights at various times have been denied or restricted at state and local levels to some citizens; 4) and what threats remain today to a citizen’s right to vote?

USCHS WELCOMES NEW STAFF

THE U.S. Capitol Historical Society is pleased to welcome new staff members to key positions in January. Peter McGuire has begun overseeing the Society’s finances as director of finance and administration. He replaces Paul McGuire, who had helmed the Finance and Administration Department since 2000. Laura McCulty Stepp has joined the senior staff as vice president of membership and development; she succeeded Rebecca Evans, who had led the Society’s Development Department since 1997.

The Society extends a warm welcome to these knowledgeable new department heads, who will guide fundraising efforts and financial stewardship. Simultaneously, we thank both Paul McGuire and Becky Evans for their long tenures and outstanding service to the Society. We wish them the best as they enter retirement.

Peter McGuire, Director of Finance, and Laura McCulty Stepp, Vice President of Membership and Development
## Capitol Committee Updates

**USCHS thanks those who renewed, upgraded, or joined the Capitol Committee. (September – December 2014)**

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<th>Leadership Council ($25,000 and above)</th>
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### Development Committee Thanks

The Development Committee is a small group of Capitol Committee members who work to bring in new members and to shape the Capitol Committee program to better fit the needs of its members. They are committed to the educational outreach programs that reach students from fourteen to twenty-one. The Society’s mission is also to preserve the history of the Capitol and the Congress. This mission is always foremost in committee members’ minds.

**Jeanne de Cervens, Co-Chair** (Transamerica Companies)
**Sean Callinicos, Co-Chair & Board Member** (Sanofi)

**Donald Carlson, Development Committee Emeritus & Board Member** (PricewaterhouseCoopers)
**Molly Fogarty** (Nestlé USA)
**Mark Hopkins** (AAUW)
**Richard Merski** (CIGNA)
**Dontai Smalls** (UPS)
**John Sampson** (Microsoft)
**Bill Miller** (The Business Roundtable)
**FOUR-STAGE PORCELAIN BOWL**

Designed especially for the U.S. Capitol Historical Society, this heavyweight porcelain bowl is the perfect presentation piece or gift item. Four images of the Capitol framed in wreaths of green and highlighted with 22kt trim give this bowl a very distinctive look. Inside in 22kt is an eagle clutching a banner proclaiming “E Pluribus Unum” - Out of Many, One. The bowl is 8 1/2 inches diameter by 4 inches tall. Elegantly gift boxed.

#002419  $150.00
Members    $135.00

**CORN COLUMN CANDLESTICKS**

Detailed replicas of the “corn-cob capitals” designed by Benjamin H. LaTrobe in the vestibule outside the original Supreme Court in the U.S. Capitol. The finish has the look of sandstone mimicking the original columns. These classic pieces make a great wedding or anniversary gift. 8” tall.

#001545    $39.95
Members    $35.95

**DOME PAPERWEIGHT**

Centered on a circular wood base, this replica of the dome of the U.S. Capitol is made from the marble of the east front steps originally installed between 1863 and 1865. The marble has been ground to a fine powder and resin is added for molding these handsome desk or shelf accessories. Gift boxed with provenance card. Made in America.

#002769  $48.00
Members    $43.20

**MARBLE DOME BOOKENDS**

Part of the Society’s “Antiquities Collection” of fine gifts, these beautiful bookends are crafted from the marble of the east front steps originally installed between 1863-65. The marble is ground into a fine powder and resin is added for molding the fine detail. This is a gift that will compliment any desk or shelf. Gift boxed with provenance card. (Each bookend 7 ½” x 5 ½” x 2 ½”.)

#001903    $72.00
Members    $64.80

**GREAT SEAL COASTERS**

This set of four stoneware coasters with wood caddy makes a fine gift for any occasion. The Great Seal of the United States adorns the center. Coasters measure 4” x 4” and tray is 4 1/2” x 4 1/2” x 2”.

#002809    $39.95
Members    $35.95
APOTHEOSIS SCARF
A beautiful 36” x 36” digitally printed reproduction of Constantino Brumidi’s most prominent work in the Rotunda of the Capitol makes this 100% silk scarf a masterpiece. Each scarf comes with a fact sheet that describes the allegorical figures and symbols in the design. Trimmed in a tan border with peach accent, you will be tempted to frame it rather than wear it.

#002418 $76.00
Members $68.40

APOTHEOSIS JEWELRY BOX
This handmade rich hardwood jewelry box features a color inlaid tile artwork of The Apotheosis of Washington. The box measures 5 x 5 x 2 3/4 inches. The lid is hinged while the interior is lined and the bottom has skid/mark resistant rubber feet.

#002784 $36.00
Members $32.40

TO MAKE BEAUTIFUL THE CAPITOL

#002757 $30.00
Members $27.00

BRUMIDI EAGLE TIE
This 100% silk tie features an Eagle pattern motif taken from the artwork of the famed Brumidi Corridors of the United States Senate.

#002483 Navy
#002484 Burgandy
Each $36.00
Members $32.40

BRUMIDI PANEL SCARF
This silk rectangular scarf features the beauty of artist Constantino Brumidi’s work, now under restoration. The scarf’s colors reflect the true colors uncovered by the meticulous efforts of conservators restoring the original wall paintings/panels in the Brumidi Corridors on the Senate side of the Capitol. Size is 13” x 53 1/2”.

#000416 $59.95
Members $53.95
Complete the appropriate sections of this page to enroll as a Society member, renew your membership, give a gift membership, or order items from The Dome Marketplace. If you are giving a gift membership, please provide the person’s name and address below.

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CAPITOL ALUMNI MEMBERS
Tell us your connection with the Capitol.

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YES, I/WE WILL ATTEND:

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Please record me as a Capitol Alumni Member

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