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National Civil Rights Museum Freedom Awards honoring Charlayne Hunter-Gault, Robert (Bob) Parris Moses, Frank E Robinson and Tom Brokaw

Memphis, TN – The Freedom Award is an annual event presented by the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis TN. Since 1991, the Freedom Award has served as a symbol of the ongoing fight for human rights both in America and worldwide. Recipients are celebrated for their tireless contributions in civil and human rights, education, the arts, sports & community service, justice and for their dedication to creating opportunity for the disenfranchised.

Themed “Breaking Barriers, Advancing Freedom,” The 2014 Freedom Awards were presented on December 2, 2014 at the Cannon Center for the Performing Arts in Memphis, TN. The event took place shortly after the grand jury decision in Ferguson MO and was still on the minds of the honorees. Radio host Michael Eric Dyson served as MC for the event.

“These honorees truly broke barriers — each engaged in advancing freedom and equality via their careers, whether it was bringing global attention to the devastation of Apartheid, or the turbulent fight against voter disfranchisement and crippling segregation.” said Beverly Robertson, past president of the National Civil Rights Museum. “Their actions brought needed attention to oppression and drove critical change.” In recognition of her great work as President of the Museum, Robertson was presented with her own Lifetime Achievement Freedom Award during the ceremony. She stepped down after 17 years as President.

Charlayne Hunter-Gault, International Freedom Award honoree, is an award-winning journalist with more than 40 years in the industry, working in every medium. She began her journalism career as a reporter for *The New Yorker* and later worked as a local news anchor for WRC-TV in Washington, DC, and as the Harlem bureau chief for *The New York Times*. As a global journalist, Hunter-Gault worked as NPR’s chief correspondent in Africa and CNN’s Johannesburg Bureau Chief and Correspondent. Hunter-Gault joined NPR in 1997 after 20 years

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with PBS, where she worked as a national correspondent for *NewsHour* with Jim Lehrer. Hunter-Gault was one of the heroic students who integrated universities in the American South. In her *From Jim Crow America to Apartheid South Africa & Beyond: An Activist Journalists Journey*, Hunter-Gault describes her historic entry into the University of Georgia as its first black woman student and the road she took through Jim Crow South to get there.

Robert (Bob) Parris Moses, National Freedom Award honoree, left his life in Harlem in 1961 and went to Mississippi into the fray of a civil rights battle for voter rights. He's an educator and civil rights activist whose name is synonymous with the Mississippi Freedom Summer Project. As a leader in the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), Moses traveled to counties in Mississippi to educate and register voters, facing relentless violence and intimidation. By 1964, Moses had become Co-Director of the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), an umbrella organization for the major civil rights groups working in Mississippi. As a SNCC leader, he recruited college students from around the country to come to Mississippi to help in the black voter education and registration. In 1982, Moses received a MacArthur Fellowship, which he used to found the Algebra Project, an organization that teaches math skills to minority students in impoverished communities and equips parents to advocate for needed educational reforms.

Frank E Robinson, Lifetime Achievement Award honoree, was one of the highest ranking African Americans in Major League Baseball as Executive Vice President of Player Development. He is a Hall of Fame ballplayer whose career was so outstanding that he starred in both major leagues, as a player and as a manager. In 21 seasons as an active player, primarily with the Cincinnati Reds and the Baltimore Orioles, Robinson hit for both power and average, with a career average of .294 hits, 586 home runs, and 1812 runs batted in. He remains the only player in history to win the MVP in both leagues. In 1975 he became the first African-American to manage a major league team, the Cleveland Indians of the American League. Five years later he was the first African-American to manage a National League team, the San Francisco Giants.

Tom Brokaw, Lifetime Achievement Award honoree, is a television journalist and author best known as the anchor and managing editor of *NBC Nightly News* from 1982 to 2004. During his career, he covered Watergate, the fall of the Berlin Wall and 9/11. In addition to his historic reign in the anchor seat, Tom Brokaw produced many specials for NBC, including 2001's "The Greatest Generation Speaks," based on Brokaw's best-selling 1998 book, *The Greatest Generation*. Brokaw has kept busy during his retirement, hosting History Channel documentaries, including *1968 with Tom Brokaw*, which portrayed the year as one of the most turbulent and pivotal periods in American history. Early in his career (1965), he moved to Atlanta to cover the Civil Rights Movement and was able to cover stories on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. while serving as anchor and editor at KMTV.

The National Civil Rights Museum Freedom Awards honoring Charlayne Hunter-Gault, Robert (Bob) Parris Moses, Frank E Robinson and Tom Brokaw is distributed by the National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA), and is presented by WKNO, Public Broadcasting for the Mid-South.

The National Civil Rights Museum is a complex of museums and historic buildings in Memphis, Tennessee; its exhibits trace the history of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States from the 17th century to the present. The museum is built around the former Lorraine Motel, where Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated on April 4, 1968. The museum offers 260 artifacts, more than 40 new films, oral histories, interactive media and external listening posts that guide visitors through five centuries of history that inspired people around the world to stand up for equality.

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