



News Release

For Immediate Release

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**FOUNDATION FOR THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES PRESENTS ITS 2008
RECORDS OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD TO HISTORIAN JAMES MCPHERSON**
Award Celebrated with Gala Sponsored by The Boeing Company

Washington, DC—SEPTEMBER 17, 2008— The Foundation for the National Archives yesterday presented the fifth annual Records of Achievement Award to James McPherson. Professor McPherson is best known for his prolific Civil War scholarship, opening civil war history to a much broader audience, and for his Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era*. The tribute was awarded last night at the Foundation for the National Archives Annual Gala event, which was sponsored by The Boeing Company.

The Foundation for the National Archives' Records of Achievement Award is an annual tribute, recognizing an individual who has made a significant impact upon the public's understanding of the United States and its history. The awardees' accomplishments reflect the Foundation's mission by highlighting the stories found in the millions of documents, photographs, maps, films and recordings in the National Archives to bring about a fuller understanding of our national experience. The recipients of the Records of Achievement Award help educate, enrich, and even inspire a deeper appreciation of the country, its democratic ideals, and the rich heritage of its people.

"More books have been written on the Civil War than any other topic, except religion. Professor McPherson has distinguished himself through multiple significant additions to this library, including his singular *Battle Cry of Freedom*," said Tom Wheeler, president of the Foundation for the National Archives. "His writings have made the story of this defining moment accessible to the Americans who today live in the shadow its story. I am delighted that the board of the Foundation for the National Archives is honoring Dr. McPherson as this year's recipient of the Records of Achievement Award."

"The National Archives and Records Administration holds the largest collection anywhere of official Civil War records. From the photographs of Mathew Brady to the records of the Massachusetts 54th Infantry Regiment to the Emancipation Proclamation, and so much else, the collections are an invaluable source of original material to help researchers and writers make sense of this turbulent period in American history," said Archivist of the United States Allen Weinstein. "Professor James McPherson's many eloquent works have encouraged a deep and growing interest in the history of the Civil War era and highlight the significance of original records in interpreting the American past. We are proud that he has agreed to accept the

Foundation's 2008 Records of Achievement Award.”

The Gala, sponsored by The Boeing Company for the fourth year, celebrated the public-private partnership between the National Archives and Records Administration and the Foundation for the National Archives, which was created to support the development of programs, technology, exhibits, and educational materials based on the vast holdings of the National Archives.

The exclusive evening event drew distinguished guests from Washington’s civic and cultural community as well as dignitaries from the Administration, Congress, the Court, the Judiciary, and the diplomatic corps to celebrate the Records of Achievement Award.

“We congratulate Dr. McPherson upon his receiving the Records of Achievement Award for his many books and for his active support for the preservation of historical Civil War sites,” said Jim Albaugh, president and CEO of Boeing Integrated Defense Systems. “It’s an honor for Boeing to support the Foundation for the National Archives and participate in this tribute to a scholar who has engaged a broad spectrum of American readers so they may view the Civil War in new and meaningful ways.”

McPherson is a Professor Emeritus at Princeton University. His highly acclaimed single volume treatment of the Civil War, *Battle Cry of Freedom*, sold more than 600,000 copies and was credited with bridging the gap between scholars of history and the general public. His other books include *The Struggle for Equality: Abolitionists and the Negro in the Civil War and Reconstruction*, which won the Anisfield-Wolf Award in Race Relations, and *For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War*, which was awarded the Lincoln Prize. McPherson also served as an historical consultant on the 1993 motion picture *Gettysburg*, the 1990 public television documentary *The Civil War*, by Ken Burns, a Foundation for the National Archives Board member, and the 2001 documentary *Abraham and Mary Lincoln: A House Divided*.

About the Foundation for the National Archives

Created in 1992, the Foundation for the National Archives is an independent nonprofit organization committed to the mission of fostering public awareness of the importance of the National Archives as an essential resource in the American democracy. The Foundation serves as the private-sector partner of the National Archives in the creation of the *National Archives Experience*, a partnership for civic literacy which includes permanent exhibits, educational programs, traveling exhibits, special events and screenings, educational literature, and historical/records-related products and media. The Foundation supports these activities by generating financial and creative support from individuals, foundations and corporations who share a belief in the importance of engaging innovative civics education.

About The Boeing Company

Boeing is the world's leading aerospace company and the largest manufacturer of commercial jetliners and military aircraft combined. Additionally, Boeing designs and manufactures rotorcraft, electronic and defense systems, missiles, satellites, launch vehicles and advanced information and communication systems. As a major service provider to NASA, Boeing operates

the Space Shuttle and International Space Station. The company also provides numerous military and commercial airline support services. Boeing has customers in more than 90 countries around the world and is one of the largest U.S. exporters in terms of sales. Headquartered in Chicago, Boeing employs more than 150,000 people across the United States and in 70 countries.

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