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The Foundation for the National Archives Presents its 2009 Records of Achievement Award to Pulitzer Prize Winning Author Annette Gordon-Reed
Award presented at annual gala sponsored by The Boeing Company

WASHINGTON - September 16, 2009 - The Foundation for the National Archives presented its sixth annual Records of Achievement Award to lawyer, professor, and 2009 Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family*, Annette Gordon-Reed. 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.

"Whether it is through her work as author, professor or lecturer, Annette Gordon-Reed embodies the spirit of the Records of Achievement Award," said Foundation for the National Archives Chairman and President Ken Lore. "Professor Gordon-Reed engages the public in history at every level and, in doing so, reminds them that first and foremost, this nation's story lies not in one book but in the millions of letters, photographs, and other source documents left behind. It was through the use of source material that Professor Gordon-Reed was able to provide deeper insight into the realities of slavery and the repercussions felt at every level of American society by examining the fuller story of Jefferson and Sally Hemings."

Gordon-Reed's prize winning book, *The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family*, is a painstakingly researched exploration of a sprawling multi-generation slave family

that casts provocative new light on the relationship between Sally Hemings and Thomas Jefferson.

"As we continue to celebrate the National Archives 75th Anniversary, it's an honor to pay tribute to one of our most distinguished presidential scholars and an ardent advocate for the use of primary sources," said Adrienne C. Thomas, Acting Archivist of the United States. "Professor Gordon-Reed's groundbreaking research has renewed interest in the nation's early history and dramatically illustrates the important role that archives play in keeping the story of our nation alive."

The Gala, sponsored by The Boeing Company for the fifth 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. Guests included prominent Foundation for the National Archives Board members, including: Michael Beschloss, NBC Historian and Board Vice President; Cokie Roberts of NPR and Board Vice President; Honey Alexander and her husband, Sen. Lamar Alexander; Gov. James Blanchard of DLA Piper; John Fox Sullivan, Group Publisher and CEO of National Journal Group; Tom Wheeler, past President of the Board; Nancy M. "Bitsey" Folger and her husband Dr. Sidney Werkman; and Mary Lynn and her husband Nathan "Nick" Kotz.

Other guests included: Hon. Sean McCormack of The Boeing Company; Mrs. Vernon Jordan; Hon. Robert Reed, husband of honoree Annette Gordon-Reed and Family Court Judge in New York; Yelberton "Yebbie" Watkins, Chief of Staff for the House Majority Whip; David Pryor of Microsoft; Susan Stein of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation; Joann Piccolo of Tyco Electronics; and Judy Kovler of the Kovler Foundation.

"As a committed partner of the Foundation, we are pleased to again sponsor this annual celebration and to pay special tribute to the recipient of the Records of Achievement Award, Annette Gordon-Reed," said Mary Foerster, Vice President, Business Support, Communications and Community Affairs. "We congratulate Professor Gordon-Reed for her many achievements and her ability to reinvigorate historical debate. She has clearly ensured continued interest in America's past and future history, reaching an ever-growing audience through her teaching, her research, and her acclaimed publications."

Gordon-Reed, a professor of history at Rutgers University and professor of law at New York Law School, is the first African-American woman to receive the National Book Award for non-fiction in 2008 for *The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family*. She also is the author of *Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings: An American Controversy*, editor of *Race On Trial: Law and Justice in American History*, and coauthor with Vernon Jordan of *Vernon Can Read!: A Memoir*. Recently, Gordon-Reed was named Rutgers Board of Governors Professor of History, an honor which recognizes excellence in scholarship, research and teaching among the University's most distinguished faculty. She is a graduate of Dartmouth College and Harvard Law School,

where she was a member of the Law Review. Previous Records of Achievement Award recipients include: historians James McPherson, John Hope Franklin, and David McCullough, as well as journalist Tom Brokaw, and C-SPAN founder Brian Lamb.

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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