

Congressman Brady Announces PICTURING AMERICA Award Recipients

Free National Endowment for the Humanities Education Initiative Brings Great American Art Directly to Classrooms and Libraries

PHILADELPHIA --- Congressman Robert A. Brady (D-PA) announced today that Picturing America awards have been granted by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to nearly 100 schools within the First Congressional District. Picturing America is a free innovative initiative that helps teach American history and culture by bringing some of the country's great art directly to classrooms and libraries.

"Picturing America is a unique program that allows for art to be made available to public and private school students," said Congressman Brady. "By bringing great art into the schools, the program offers an innovative way to experience American history through our nation's art, outside of museum walls."

"One of our educational priorities in Philadelphia is that every student has exposure to the arts as an integral part of a well-rounded education," said Sandra Dungee Glenn, Chairwoman of the Philadelphia School Reform Commission. "Picturing America provides an opportunity to do that in a creative way that may cross-cut the curriculum even as it gives teachers and students a very special lens through which to consider American society, institutions, and values."

The schools in the First Congressional District in Philadelphia and Delaware County that have been awarded Picturing America join over 26,000 schools and public libraries across the country participating in the program. Picturing America comes with a comprehensive package of materials that includes:

- Forty large, high-quality color reproductions of the selected masterpieces (24" x 36")
- A comprehensive teachers resource book providing a wide range of ideas and background information to support educators using the works of art in core subject areas
- Additional resources and lesson plans available through the Picturing America Web site, PicturingAmerica.neh.gov

The NEH is also offering Picturing America to more schools and libraries through an enrollment opportunity that began August 2008. All eligible schools and public libraries in the U.S. and its territories who have not previously received Picturing America may apply for the program through October 31, 2008 at PicturingAmerica.neh.gov.

In addition to schools and libraries, through an interagency agreement, NEH and the Administration for Children and Families within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will work together to make Picturing America available to the 20,000 Head Start Centers around the nation and here in Pennsylvania. This partnership will provide for the development of materials to supplement Picturing America and ensure that the program will enhance early childhood development and family literacy.

Picturing America is distributed by the NEH in cooperation with the American Library Association (ALA). For information about the ALA, please visit www.ala.org.

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