

# NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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## LIBERTY MEDAL FAST FACTS

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**The Liberty Medal was established in 1988** by *We the People 200* to heighten recognition of the principles that founded this nation and to serve as a lasting legacy to the 200th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution.

The Liberty Medal annually honors an individual or an organization from anywhere in the world that has “**demonstrated leadership and vision in the pursuit of liberty of conscience or freedom from oppression, ignorance, or deprivation.**”

**Six former recipients of the Liberty Medal have subsequently won the Nobel Peace prize.**

Past recipients of the Liberty Medal include: former U.S. **President Jimmy Carter**; the late U.S. Supreme Court **Justice Thurgood Marshall**, South African **Presidents F.W. de Klerk and Nelson Mandela**; South Korean **President Kim Dae-jung**; Doctors **James Watson and Francis Crick**, co-discoverers of the structure of DNA; United Nations **Secretary-General Kofi Annan**; United States **Secretary of State Colin Powell**; U.S. Supreme Court **Justice Sandra Day O'Connor**; Ukraine **President Viktor Yushchenko**; and former U.S. **Presidents George H.W. Bush and William J. Clinton**.

**In June 2006, the National Constitution Center reached an agreement with the Philadelphia Foundation to assume all responsibility for the Liberty Medal**, which includes the annual presentation of the award and a host of supplemental programs and activities designed to extend the Medal's reach throughout the year.

**The Liberty Medal winner is chosen by the National Constitution Center**, and approved by the executive committee of the board of trustees.