



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

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DERRICK JOHNSON
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Chairman, Board of Directors

NAACP SPINGARN COMMITTEE NOW RECEIVING NOMINATIONS FOR THE 103rd NAACP SPINGARN AWARD

Leon W. Russell, Chairman NAACP National Board of Directors has announced that we are now soliciting nominations for the 103rd SPINGARN AWARD. All nominations for the 103rd Spingarn Medal must be submitted, in writing, on or before December 31, 2017. To be accepted, the postmark date on the envelope must be no later than December 31, 2017.

The Medal, which was instituted in 1914 by the late J. E. Spingarn, then NAACP Chairman, is awarded for “the highest or noblest achievement by a living American Negro during the preceding years.”

The purpose of the medal is twofold – first, to call attention of the American people to the existence of distinguished merit and achievement among Americans of African descent; and secondly – to serve as a reward for such achievement and as a stimulus to the ambition of youth of African descent.

To date, *102* Spingarn Medals have been awarded to living Americans of African descent for the highest achievement during the preceding year or years, in any honorable field of endeavor.

Medalists include the late Maya Angelou, Harry Belafonte, the late Julian Bond, Dr. Benjamin Carson, the late Honorable Robert L. Carter, Honorable John Conyers, the late Ruby Dee, the late John Hope Franklin, Mrs. Frankie Muse Freeman, Earl G. Graves, Sr., the late Dorothy I. Height, the late Judge A. Leon Higginbotham, the late Honorable Oliver W. Hill, Sr., the late Lena Horne, Rev. Jesse Jackson, The Hon. Nathaniel R. Jones, Quincy Jones, Vernon Jordan, Honorable John Lewis, the late Hon. Constance Baker Motley, Jessye Norman, the late Gordon Parks, Sidney Poitier, Colin Powell, the late Percy E. Sutton, Cicely Tyson, the late Carl Rowan, Myrlie Evers-Williams, Governor L. Douglas Wilder and Oprah Winfrey.

Nominations must include a detailed, current biographical profile of the nominee, highlighting relevant activities and achievements. Supporting and verifying documents such as news clippings, honors received, etc., should also be attached. This information should be clearly typewritten or printed, as it must be reproduced.

The final selection of the Medalist is made by a Committee of Award, which is selected by the Association’s Board of Directors. The Committee’s decision is final in all matters affecting the Award.

Nominations should be addressed to: The Spingarn Medal Award Committee, Attention: Mildred B. Roxborough, NAACP, 50 Broadway, 31st Flr., New York, NY 10004. Must be postmarked by December 31, 2017.

THE SPINGARN MEDAL

Awarded annually for the highest achievement of an American of African descent.

THE SPINGARN MEDAL was instituted in 1914 by the late J. E. Spingarn (then Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People), who gave annually until his death in 1939, a gold medal to be awarded “for the highest or noblest achievement by a living American Negro during the preceding year or years.” A fund sufficient to continue the award was set up by his will “to perpetuate the lifelong interest of my brother, Arthur B. Spingarn, and of myself in the achievement of the American Negro.”

PURPOSE

The purpose of the medal is twofold – first to call the attention of the American people to the existence of distinguished merit and achievement among Americans of African descent, and secondly, to serve as a reward for such achievement, and as a stimulus to the ambition of colored youth.

CONDITIONS

The medal is presented annually to the man or woman of African descent and American citizenship, who shall have made the highest achievement during the preceding year or years in any honorable field of human endeavor. The Committee of Award is bound by no burdensome restrictions, but may decide for itself each year what particular act or achievement deserves the highest acclaim; the choice is not limited to any one field, whether of intellectual, spiritual, physical, scientific, artistic, commercial, educational or other endeavor. It is intended primarily that the medal shall be for the highest achievement in the preceding year, but if no achievement in any one year seems to merit it, the Committee may award it for work achieved in preceding years, or may withhold it. The medal is usually presented to the winner at the Annual Convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the presentation speech is delivered by a distinguished citizen.

A nine-person Committee of Award is selected by the NAACP Board of Directors. The Committee’s decision is final in all matters affecting the award.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE AWARD

Should be submitted, in writing, to the Secretary of the Committee of Award, at the National Office, by January 1 of each year. Such communications should state in detail the achievements of the person recommended.