



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

1100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20506
202.606.8310 (PHONE)
202.606.8588 (FAX)
WWW.NEH.GOV

April 19, 2010

Congratulations!

The National Endowment for the Humanities has selected your library as a recipient of the *We the People* "A More Perfect Union" Bookshelf. We are pleased that once again this year NEH is able to provide the *We the People* Bookshelf to 4,000 of the nation's school and public libraries.

As one of this year's Bookshelf recipients, your library will receive a set of seventeen hardcover books as well as a number of bonus selections, including *The Civil War: A Film by Ken Burns* that comes to you with performance rights. NEH supported the production of this film series which, two decades later, remains the highest-rated series in the history of public television.

The "A More Perfect Union" Bookshelf arrives at your library just as the nation begins its observance of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War which brought an end to slavery in America. In addition to the Ken Burns Civil War film and its companion book, the 2010 *We the People* Bookshelf includes: *Lincoln Shot: A President's Life Remembered*; *Lincoln in His Own Words*, an introduction to Lincoln's ideas presented in his own words; and, *The Killer Angels*, Michael Shaara's riveting account of the battle of Gettysburg.

Lincoln's ideal of "a more perfect union" had its roots in the aspirations of our founders and in the framing of our Constitution. *Declaring Independence: The Origin and Influence of America's Founding Document* features images and artifacts from the Albert H. Small Declaration of Independence Collection at the University of Virginia. Edited by Christian Y. Dupont, it includes scholarly essays and biographies of the Declaration's signers. In addition, selections in the "A More Perfect Union" Bookshelf include works such as Betsy and Giulio Maestro's *A More Perfect Union: The Story of Our Constitution*; a biography of James Madison; and for older students, a deeper study by historian Joseph Ellis of certain constitutional issues, among them ideas about human equality and about the union itself, that delegates addressed at the Constitutional convention in Philadelphia and that have continued to challenge America even to the present day.

Central to the collection are books whose narratives provide insight into some of these challenging chapters in American history and that trace our country's ongoing struggle to make America unified and free. *Chains* tells a story about an African slave girl in the North during the American Revolutionary period. In *Warriors Don't Cry*, Melba Pattillo Beals recounts her year-long experience as one of the first African American students attempting to integrate a white public high school in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Hitch by Jeanette Ingold tells the story of how Moss Trawnley, a teenager who could not find a job signed up for a "hitch" in the Civilian Conservation Corps, helping Montana ranchers facing a drought during the 1930's. Joseph Bruchac's *Eagle Song* shows how relationships between a

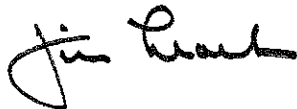
Mohawk student and his classmates are transformed as fellow students learn about his cultural heritage. And, Reginald Rose's classic stage play, *Twelve Angry Men*, vividly depicts the always critical role of the individual in a democratic society. Rounding out the collection are books for the very youngest students such as Leo Lionni's *Tico and the Golden Wings*, a picture book about a bird who comes to know himself and his own worth through selfless acts for others.

Your Bookshelf mailing will include supplementary programming materials, including bookplates, bookmarks, and posters, for use in programs for your young patrons and the general community. Your library will also receive three of the Bookshelf titles in Spanish translation if you selected this option in your application. These materials are being shipped to you by the American Library Association, NEH's steadfast partner in the Bookshelf program since 2003.

The Bookshelf is part of NEH's *We the People* program, which supports projects that strengthen the teaching, study, and understanding of American history and culture. Please visit the NEH website (www.neh.gov) to learn more about the NEH and its other programs of interest to librarians.

Congratulations again on your award. We wish you every success with the "A More Perfect Union" Bookshelf.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Leach". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jim Leach
Chairman