

# Top US civilian honor goes to 21 artists, athletes, others

By KEVIN FREKING  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama awarded the nation's highest civilian honor to 21 groundbreaking actors, musicians, athletes and innovators who inspired him over the years and "helped make me who I am."

"Everybody on this stage has touched me in a very powerful, personal way, in ways that they probably couldn't imagine," Obama said in concluding an hour-long ceremony Tuesday in the White House East Room.

The Presidential Medal of Freedom recognizes especially meritorious contributions to the national interests of the United States, its security and its culture. Obama called the 2016 group a "particularly impressive class."

In the film world, Obama honored Tom Hanks, Robert De Niro, Robert Redford and Cicely Tyson.

Michael Jordan and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, two of the greatest basketball players ever, were also among the honorees. Obama noted how Jordan's name is synonymous



LEFT: Artist and designer Maya Lin departs after receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom at a ceremony in the East Room of the White House on Tuesday in Washington. RIGHT: President Barack Obama presents the Presidential Medal of Freedom to former NBA basketball player Michael Jordan. Obama is recognizing 21 Americans with the nation's highest civilian award, including giants of the entertainment industry, sports legends, activists and innovators.



AP Photos/Andrew Harnik

with excellence.

"There is a reason you call somebody 'the Michael Jordan of,'" Obama said. "The Michael Jordan of neurosurgery, or the Michael Jordan of rabbis, or the Michael Jordan of outrigger canoeing. Everyone knows what you're talking about."

Bruce Springsteen and Diana Ross were recognized for their music. Of "The Boss," he said Springsteen crafted "anthems of our America, the reality of who we are and the reverie of who we want to be."

Maya Lin, the designer of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Confluence Project along the Columbia River,

including an installation at Cape Disappointment State Park in Ilwaco, Washington, was also honored.

Other honorees included philanthropists Bill and Melinda Gates, comedian Ellen DeGeneres and broadcaster Vin Scully. Of DeGeneres, Obama said she has a way of making people laugh at something rather than someone, "except when I danced on her show." He said it's also easy to forget that she had risked her career nearly 20 years ago when she came out as gay.

"What an incredible burden that was to bear, to risk her career like that. People don't do that very often, and then to have

the hopes of millions on your shoulders," Obama said.

The diverse group seemed to enjoy themselves at the White House, participating in a mannequin challenge before the ceremony, trying not to move as they were recorded on video.

Obama said the people receiving the medal helped push America forward and inspired millions around the world. The White House said the president and his staff spend time considering a variety of candidates for the award, but ultimately, it's the president's decision.

Posthumous honors went to Native American advocate Elouise Cobell and Rear Adm.

Grace Hopper.

Others receiving the award included:

- Richard Garwin, an inventor and polymath physicist who made pioneering contributions to the nation's defense.

- Frank Gehry, one of the world's leading architects.

- Margaret H. Hamilton, a mathematician and computer scientist.

- Lorne Michaels, producer of "Saturday Night Live"

- Newton Minow, a former Federal Communications Commission chairman devoted to numerous public and charitable causes.

- Eduardo Padron, president of Miami Dade College.

## Groups push for wilderness area around Crater Lake

Associated Press

PORTLAND — Oregon conservation groups are putting pressure on Congress to designate a large swath of public land, including Crater Lake National Park, as a federal wilderness area.

The Oregonian reports that representatives from Oregon Wild and Environment Oregon delivered a petition in support of the proposal to U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden's office on Monday. The petition garnered 37,000 signatures and calls for having 500,000 acres declared the Crater Lake Wilderness Area.

In a statement, Wyden, a Democrat from Portland, said protecting natural treasures is a top priority for Oregon.

U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio, a Eugene Democrat, says he thinks he'll have to focus on preserving already protected areas rather than expanding them, based on statements from President-elect Donald Trump and Republican leadership in Congress.

## State senator to step down to take university post

By CLAIRE WITCOMBE  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — State Sen. Chris Edwards, D-Eugene, announced Tuesday he is stepping down from the legislature to lead "strategic initiatives" at the University of Oregon's new Knight Campus at the end of the year.

Edwards, who was elected to the Oregon House in 2006 and appointed senator in 2009, will join the University of Oregon as vice president of strategic initiatives Dec. 15, according to a University of Oregon news release.

Edwards won election to the seat in 2010 and 2014. His resignation from the state senate is effective Dec. 31.

The Democratic Party of Lane County will choose nominees for the seat through a voting process.

In that process, the party's precinct committee members who live in the district will select at least three and no more than five nominees.

The Lane County Commission has the final say in choosing someone among those nominees to serve the rest of Edwards' term.

### Contenders

State Rep. Val Hoyle, D-Eugene, said Tuesday afternoon that she was interested in seeking Edwards' spot.

Hoyle, a former House Majority Leader, did not run for reelection to her house seat this year, as she sought the Democratic party's nomination for Secretary of State this spring.

Hoyle lost in the primary to Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian, who in turn lost to Republican Dennis Richardson in the general election earlier this month.

In his new role, Edwards will focus on developing the Phil and Penny Knight Campus for Accelerating Scientific Impact, according to the university. He will be paid \$150,000 per year.

The campus was established by a \$500 million gift from the Nike co-founder and his wife and was announced Oct. 17.

Edwards, reached by phone Tuesday, said he applied for the job prior to the gift



Submitted Photo  
State Sen. Chris Edwards and his family.

announcement; he received an offer over the weekend.

He said he initially applied for the job hoping to keep his spot in the Legislature, but after learning of the gift and the university's plans to seek \$100 million in matching funds from the state, he sought to avoid an apparent conflict of interest.

The initiative is intended to "fast-track scientific discoveries," according to the university, and to be a hub for training and innovation in the sciences.

### In the Senate

Edwards is the chair of the Senate Environmental and Natural Resources Committee and was previously co-chair of the Senate's Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources.

In a statement, Oregon Senate Majority Leader Ginny Burdick, D-Portland, called Edwards a "pragmatic leader with a keen ability to bring together differing interests to create compromises that work in the best interest of all parties."

Hoyle, reached by phone Tuesday, said she learned of Edwards' resignation over the past couple of days.

She said she consulted with Edwards and State Rep. Nancy Nathanson, D-Eugene, who is her senior in the Legislature. Nathanson declined to pursue the seat, Hoyle said.

Hoyle said she is an independent contractor doing development work at the University of Oregon's Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics and a policy fellow with the political science department.

## Consult a Professional



LEO FINZI

**Astorias Best.com**

Microsoft REGISTERED Refurbisher

Charter Spectrum

WE MATCH PRICES ON EQUIPMENT FOR YOU. ENJOY OUR SERVICE AND LOW PRICES

M-F 10-6 Sat 12-5  
77 11th Street, Suite H  
Astoria, OR  
503-325-2300

**Q: How do I let someone else use my computer, but keep my information secure?**

**A:** In Windows 7, click the Start Button, then click Control Panel. Enter "User" in the search box in the top right corner. Click "Manage another account" then "Create a new account" Enter a name for the new account, select Standard or Administrator. Read the details for the different accounts to ensure you choose the correct one. For new or youthful users, we recommend a standard account.



**ASTORIA CHIROPRACTIC**

Barry Sears, D.C.

**503-325-3311**

2935 Marine Drive,  
Astoria, Oregon

**Q: I bent over and my back went out!**

**A:** Now you can't get upright. The pain is horrible. First, put ice on the back for 15 minutes; repeat hourly — NO heat! Reduce inflammation with ice. After that, the fastest way to get back on your feet is with chiropractic care. Manipulation and therapies (ultrasound, laser EMS) speed up healing and reduce swelling. The next time your back is aching call 503-325-3311.



Stefanie Cao  
Medicare  
Market Manager

**CareOregon Advantage**

www.careoregonadvantage.org

**Q: What is SHIBA?**

**A:** Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance is a state-supported program with a network of trained, certified volunteers. They can help you learn about Medicare, understand your options and rights, and connect you to any assistance you may qualify for. SHIBA is known for its annual detailed guide to Medicare plans in Oregon. It's great consumer info. SHIBA also holds free classes. To talk with a SHIBA counselor, call 1-800-722-4134 (Spanish option available). Find out more at www.oregonshiba.org.

P.S. Happy Thanksgiving!



Angela Sidlo  
Owner

**Waves of Change Wellness Center**

No. 1 12th St., Suite 10  
Astoria, OR 97103  
503-338-9921

www.AngelaSidlo.com  
www.reflexology-works.com

Find us on facebook

**Q: I'm going through menopause, can aromatherapy help?**

**A:** Yes! Aromatherapy is the ideal holistic approach for menopausal symptoms. It is natural and non-invasive. Essential oils help to address menopausal symptoms such as mood swings, lost libido, anxiety and sleeplessness. Essential oils work with your body's own chemistry to find balance, without the use of chemicals that have so many adverse side effects. Call Angela and schedule a consultation to create a blend that is specific to your needs. 503-338-9921



**NORTHWEST WILD PRODUCTS**

Amanda Cordero  
Northwest Wild Products  
Fresh Seafood Market  
354 Industry St, Astoria  
503-791-1907  
Daily 9am-7pm

On the docks of the West Mooring Basin, by the Riverwalk Inn

**Q: What kind of shark do you sell?**

**A:** Our shark offerings vary. Most of the shark we sell is caught incidentally, and the landings are irregular. We usually only get one or two a year, but they are big so they last us a long time. We once got a 300 lb Thresher Shark that, after freezing and smoking, lasted us a year and a half. Currently we are selling canned, smoked or frozen Mako Shark. We also get an occasional Soupin. Harvesting of Great Whites is prohibited under federal law. Shark has a tangy tuna-like flavor, but is a little softer and more delicate.



JEFFREY M. LEINASSAR  
DMD, FAGD

**LEINASSAR DENTAL EXCELLENCE**

503/325-0310  
1414 MARINE DRIVE,  
ASTORIA  
www.smileastoria.com

**Q: I was recently diagnosed with diabetes. Are there any dental problems that are associated with this disease?**

**A:** Diabetic patients are at a higher risk for dental problems and gum disease. These patients must adhere to a very closely monitored blood sugar level, follow the recommendations and prescriptions from their physician, AND take exquisite oral hygiene care of their teeth and gums. This is not the time to be lackadaisical. You must be on top of your game!!!!

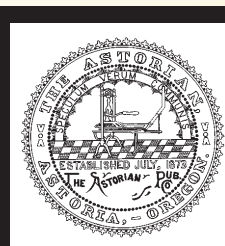
**Roby's Furniture & Appliance**  
Astoria • (503)325-1535  
1555 Commercial Street

Store Hours  
Mon. - Fri. 9:30 to 5:30  
Saturday 10:00 to 5:00

More Locations:  
Tillamook • (503) 842-7111  
1126 Main Ave  
Lincoln City • (541) 996-2177  
6255 SW Hwy. 101  
Newport • (541) 265-9520  
5111 N. Coast Hwy.  
Florence • (541)997-8214  
18th & Hwy. 101

**Q: Should I buy a new box spring/foundation when purchasing a new mattress?**

**A:** Yes, you should always buy the matching foundation with the purchase of a new mattress, unless the bed you are putting it on is a solid platform design. All mattress manufacturers have a clearly defined limitation built in to their warranty requiring a proper support surface for the mattress.



**THE DAILY ASTORIAN**  
503-325-3211  
www.dailyastorian.com

949 Exchange St.  
Astoria, OR  
503-325-3211

**Q: I'm going out of town and need to stop my Daily Astorian newspaper. What are my options?**

**A:** We have several different options for you if you are heading out of town. We can save your papers in a vacation pack and deliver them when you return. We can switch you to a Web subscription while you are away and you can read the paper online. You can have your delivery stopped and you can donate your missed newspapers to local schools. What ever option fits your needs, just call our circulation department at 503-325-3211 and we will take care of it for you.

**eOMEDIA group**  
The most valuable and respected source of local news, advertising and information for our communities.  
www.eomediagroup.com