

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FEBRUARY 23, 1987

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RAHALL ANNOUNCES GRANTS FOR SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIAN LIBRARIES

BLUEFIELD, W.VA. - U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall (D-W.Va.) is ~~proud~~ to announce that three libraries located within the Fourth Congressional District have qualified for matching grants of \$500 from the National Endowment of the Humanities to establish "Bicentennial Bookshelves" of works on the U.S. Constitution.

"As we celebrate the 200th birthday of our Constitution, many people will be able to learn more about the history of the document that makes us the great country we are today," Rahall commented. "The 'Bicentennial Bookshelves' will give interested persons the chance to review the writings of the founders and other important Constitutional works over the past two centuries."

The libraries receiving grants in Rahall's Fourth Congressional District are Raleigh County Public Library in Beckley, Craft Memorial Library in Bluefield and Cabell County Public Library in Huntington.

Other libraries in the state receiving grants are Morgan County Public Library (Berkeley Springs), Elk Valley Public Library (Charleston), Kanawha County Public Library (Charleston), Kanawha County Public Library (St. Albans), Clarksburg-Harrison Public Library (Clarksburg), Dunbar Public Library (Dunbar), Green Bank Public Library (Green Bank), Kingwood Public Library (Kingwood), Nutter Fort Public Library (Nutter Fort) and Jackson County Library (Ripley).

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

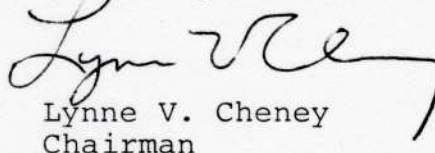


January 30, 1987

Dear Member of Congress:

Attached is a list of public libraries in your state which are about to receive matching funds from NEH to support the purchase of key works about the U.S. Constitution. I thought that you would want to know about this opportunity for your constituents to become more knowledgeable about the Constitution in the year of the Constitution's Bicentennial.

Sincerely,


Lynne V. Cheney
Chairman

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES
BICENTENNIAL BOOKSHELF 1987

WEST VIRGINIA

<u>LIBRARY</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>PROJECT DIRECTOR</u>
Raleigh County Public Library	Beckley	Susan R. Vidovich
Morgan County Public Library	Berkeley Springs	Karen Ann Ebert
Craft Memorial Library	Bluefield	Luella Dye
Elk Valley Public Library	Charleston	Linda J. Hill
Kanawha County Public Library	Charleston	Sara Sue Wright
Kanawha County Public Library/St. Albans	Charleston	Peggy Palmer
Clarksburg-Harrison Public Library	Clarksburg	Virginia N. Orvedahl
Dunbar Public Library	Dunbar	Stephen J. Crowley
Green Bank Public Library	Green Bank	Rose E. Bowyer
Cabell Co. Public Library	Huntington	Matthew W. Onion
Kingwood Public Library	Kingwood	Joel W. Beane
Nutter Fort Public Library	Nutter Fort	Judy C. Beanblossom
Jackson County Library	Ripley	Edwin D. Rauh



NEH-87-003-N

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

HUMANITIES ENDOWMENT AWARDS "BICENTENNIAL BOOKSHELF" GRANTS
Matching Funds Given to 848 Libraries for Constitutional Texts

WASHINGTON, -- Public libraries in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, as well as Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, have qualified for matching grants of \$500 from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to establish "Bicentennial Bookshelves" of works on the U.S. Constitution.

The 848 libraries that will receive the special funds include institutions serving major urban centers such as Pittsburgh, Pa., and Portland, Ore., as well as small towns in sparsely populated areas such as Gregory, S.D. (population: 1,500).

NEH is providing a total of \$424,000 in matching funds in support of the "Bicentennial Bookshelf" project.

"As we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the United States Constitution, Americans will have an opportunity to learn more about the nature and history of this remarkable document," said Lynne V. Cheney, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

"Once established in the local libraries, these 'Bicentennial Bookshelves' will make the writings of the Founders and important

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works of Constitutional scholarship readily available to citizens around the country."

Officials affiliated with many of the libraries noted in their letters of application that the valuable "Bookshelf" texts might not have been available to their communities without the NEH grants.

"Most people here have never seen an 'original source,'" wrote local businesswoman Jeanne Mozier, who helped prepare the application from the Berkeley Springs, W.Va., library. "They will never get to the Library of Congress to do historical research. The Bookshelf project allows our local library to have the resources to own valuable original source books."

George Webster, director of the Carlsbad (N.M.) Public Library, called the "Bookshelf" works a "tremendous asset" and added, "We are relatively isolated here in the desert and are the only source of such research materials for miles around."

NEH Chairman Cheney said that the Endowment also has awarded a \$29,800 emergency grant to the Federation of State Humanities Councils, which it has used to design a number of public programs to encourage people to use the "Bicentennial Bookshelf" materials. With this funding, the Federation has developed plans to help local civics groups organize reading and discussion programs, conferences, lecture series, and seminars and institutes based on the Constitutional works to be available in the libraries.

"From the beginning, the state humanities councils have been crucial in the 'Bicentennial Bookshelf' project by making sure that libraries were aware that the matching grants were available," Cheney said. "Now, as more than 800 public libraries acquire their new Constitutional texts, the state councils will provide a resource for people to get involved in using the books."

Each library has pledged to raise \$500 from other sources in order to be eligible for the equivalent amount from NEH, and several applicants have found novel ways to match the grant.

For the Sewickley (Pa.) Public Library, local elementary school students sold teddy bears to raise the money. In Rutland, Vt., members of the local county bar association are securing pledges. And a small group, made up mostly of retirees, promised the matching \$500 for the Carlsbad, N.M., library -- within 24 hours of their learning of the grant's availability.

Applicants were supplied with a list of recommended titles prepared by the endowment with the assistance of recognized Constitutional scholars. These books include: The Constitution of the United States: Interpretation and Analysis, Congressional Research Service; The Records of the Federal Convention of 1787, edited by Max Farrand; The Founders' Constitution, edited by Philip B. Kurland and Ralph Lerner; and The Encyclopedia of the American Constitution, edited by Leonard Levy.

In addition to these latest awards to public libraries, the Endowment has provided more than \$21 million in grants to organizations and individuals for more than 350 projects on the Constitution.

The National Endowment for the Humanities is an independent federal agency that supports research, scholarship, education, and general audience programs in the humanities.

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EDITORS AND WRITERS PLEASE NOTE: A list of the libraries in your area that are scheduled to receive the matching grants accompanies this release.