

## Aretha Franklin, Garrison Keillor among award winners

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The Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** — A performing arts school and 18 people, including Aretha Franklin and Garrison Keillor, are being lauded by the National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities for their contributions to the nation's cultural heritage.

President Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will present the medals at a South Lawn ceremony Wednesday.

The 1999 winners of the National Medal of the Arts include:

■ Arts patron Irene Diamond, who gave more than \$73 million to the arts.

■ Singer Aretha Franklin, the "Queen of Soul," who has earned 17 Grammys.

■ Designer and architect Michael Graves, who created some of the century's most admired structures.

■ Odetta, the "Queen of American Folk Music," who created a groundbreaking sound with her voice and guitar.

■ The Juilliard School in New York, which includes among its alumni actor Robin Williams and violinist Itzhak Perlman.

■ Writer and director Norman Lear, who created some of TV's most popular social comedies, including *All in the Family*.

■ Arts administrator Harvey Lichtenstein, who was president of the Brooklyn Academy of Music for 32 years and established it as a leading arts center.

■ Singer Lydia Mendoza, who

brought Mexican-American music to the public's attention and became famous in Latin America with her signature song, *Mal Hombre*.

■ Sculptor George Segal, who made a career of sculpting environments, including a life-sized bread line at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial in Washington, D.C.

■ Maria Tallchief, who was the New York City Ballet's longtime prima ballerina.

The 1999 winners of the National Humanities Medals are:

■ Librarian Patricia M. Batin, who organized a national campaign to save millions of decaying books by putting their content on microfilm.

■ Pulitzer Prize-winning writer

Taylor Branch, whose books, including *Parting the Waters: America in the King Years*, made him an authority on the civil rights movement.

■ New South scholar Jacquelyn Dowd Hall, who founded the Southern Oral History Project at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

■ Garrison Keillor, bestselling author and radio host of *A Prairie Home Companion*.

■ Television anchor and editor Jim Lehrer.

■ Academy Award-winning filmmaker Steven Spielberg.

■ Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright August Wilson, whose plays, including *The Piano* and *Fences*, explore the black experience in America.