

the gospel of community involvement and explored the roots and true meaning of our democracy. He is a welcome and convincing voice against cynicism and social divisiveness. As we look to the next century, with ours the strongest, most vibrant democracy in the world but increasingly more diverse, the question of whether we will learn to identify ourselves in terms of our obligations and our opportunities in the larger community, to learn to work together across the lines that divide us with mutual respect for the common good is perhaps the greatest question facing the American people. Daniel Kemmis has helped to make sure we give the right answer.

*[The President and the First Lady congratulated Mr. Kemmis and presented the prize.]*

Arturo Madrid is pioneering the field of Latino studies in the United States. He's been an advocate for expanding educational opportunities for Hispanic students all across America. As professor of modern Spanish and Latin American literature and founder of the Tomas Rivera Center, the Nation's leading think-tank on Latino issues, he has helped Americans discern and appreciate the impact of Hispanic life on American culture and literature. An entire generation of Latino academics at the Nation's top universities owe some part of their success to Arturo Madrid's work. And now as we see Americans of Hispanic heritage the fastest growing group of our fellow citizens, the full impact of his work is bound to be felt in the future. So we thank him for what he has done and for what he has done that will be felt in generations yet to come.

*[The President and the First Lady congratulated Mr. Madrid and presented the prize.]*

Bill Moyers has received about every award there is in his field, quite simply because he has proved himself a giant in broadcast journal-

ism. For more than 25 years, he has used the power of television to tackle some of the most difficult and complex issues facing our Nation, to explore the world of ideas, and to help millions of viewers better understand each other and the society in which we live. At a time in which the media often is used to truncate, oversimplify, and distort ideas in a way that divides rather than enlighten, the work of Bill Moyers' life is truly and profoundly important and encouraging. Though he is known to most Americans now as a broadcaster, his career has been as wide-ranging as his documentaries. He has been a newspaper reporter and a publisher, a campaign aide, a Deputy Director for the Peace Corps, and when he was still just a child, Presidential Press Secretary to President Johnson. Most important to me, he is a living rebuke to everybody's preconceptions about Baptist preachers. *[Laughter]* He is truly a 20th century renaissance man.

*[The President and the First Lady congratulated Mr. Moyers and presented the prize.]*

When I gave him the award, he said, "Now they'll make us pay for that one." *[Laughter]*

Ladies and gentlemen, I ask you to join me in giving one more hand to every one of these outstanding Americans. They are terrific. *[Applause]* And now, appropriately, our program will close with the Boys Choir of Harlem's rendition of "Amazing Grace."

NOTE: The President spoke at 1 p.m. in the Mellon Auditorium at the Department of Commerce. In his remarks, he referred to Jane Alexander, Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts; Sheldon Hackney, Chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities; Diane B. Frankel, Director, Institute of Museum Services; and John Brademas, Chairman, President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities.

## Remarks at the Arts and Humanities Awards Dinner January 9, 1997

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the White House. Hillary and I are delighted to have all of you here tonight. This afternoon we had the honor to award 16 men

and women and the Harlem Boys Choir our country's highest recognition for achievement in the arts and humanities.