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CELEBRATING

*American
Ideas*



Innovative Ideas. Real Results.

The Sagamore Story

Born in the spring of 2004 and located in Indianapolis, Indiana, Sagamore Institute is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, public policy research organization. We provide independent and innovative research to policy makers, practitioners and the public - we believe public policy belongs to everyone.

Sagamore Institute is committed to applied research -- research that actually puts theories and ideas to the test in the real world by working alongside innovative practitioners, learning from them, and measuring the impact of theories put into practice. We examine a broad range of public policy issues including criminal justice, education reform, faith-based initiatives, immigration, workforce development, and economic development, including global trade.

We borrow our name from the Algonquin word *sagamore* which describes someone who grapples with serious questions, builds consensus, and offers wisdom and advice. It is thus our mission to analyze difficult issues, to serve as a meeting place for disparate groups, and to offer wise counsel for a world in progress.

Innovative Ideas. Real Results.

A Message from the Sagamore Institute Board of Trustees

Welcome to Sagamore Institute's inaugural annual event, "Celebrating American Ideas." We are pleased to have you with us this evening to honor leaders whose vision, words, and actions help fulfill Abraham Lincoln's belief in America as "the last, best hope for the world."

Ideas matter. They can improve the human condition and alter the course of history. As a think tank, ideas are our business.

To help celebrate Sagamore Institute's 5th anniversary of making ideas matter in the Heartland and beyond, tonight's program honors the landmark ideas of Dr. William J. Bennett and select members of the Navajo Code Talkers. Our featured guest and awardees exemplify how innovative thinking shapes, defends, and defines the American Idea.

In a democracy like the United States, knowledge of history is vital. Yet we face a great threat to our national identity today: most American students nearing voting age know startlingly little about the foundational democratic principles and ideals that comprise the history of this nation.

Few others understand this challenge better than our featured speaker this evening, Dr. William J. Bennett. Most recently, Dr. Bennett is known as a renowned author, but his experiences as U.S. Secretary of Education, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and college professor uniquely position him to share insights into the imperative for and response to restoring excellence in history education. His three-volume history of the United States is exciting American students about history and equipping them to become a better, more informed citizenry.

We are honored by the presence this evening of representative members of the Navajo Code Talkers. Japanese intelligence experts broke every code the U.S. forces devised in WWII, until a small band of modest Navajo shepherders and farmers transformed their ancient language into an indecipherable military code. They wanted to defend their land, their people, their country.

What started as patriotism ended in heroism. Their unbreakable code transformed the course of modern history, saving countless lives and hastening the end of WWII. Tonight, they'll share their story of patriotism -- and we'll celebrate their historic heroism.

Thank you for joining us for this remarkable evening. We hope you find our program thought provoking and inspiring.

Sincerely,

Board of Trustees of Sagamore Institute

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Schedule of Events

A Patriotic Medley

Herron High School Chamber Chorale

A Video Introduction to Sagamore Institute

Welcome & Introduction of Featured Speaker

The Honorable Daniel R. Coats, Co-Chairman,
Sagamore Institute Board of Trustees

Feature Presentation

Dr. William J. Bennett

Question & Answer Session

Dr. Bennett

Introduction of Navajo Code Talkers & Award Presentation

Jay F. Hein, President, Sagamore Institute

Response

Representatives of the Navajo Code Talkers

Close of Program

P. Douglas Wilson, Co-Chairman, Sagamore Institute

Sagamore Institute warmly welcomes the Herron High School Chamber Chorale, representative members of the dynamic Herron High School Concert Choir. This evening's performances are in Latin and in English, under the direction of Mr. Jonathan Harris, Choir Instructor.

The museum galleries are open until 9:00 p.m.



Description of the Award

Sagamore Institute is pleased to bestow its inaugural annual "Celebrating American Ideas" award for 2010 to representative members of the Navajo Code Talkers. The award is given each year to individuals who, singularly or collectively, transform an innovative idea into real action to benefit the lives of many. In so doing, they transform our community, our nation, and our world one idea at a time.



Biographies of Participants

Dr. William J. Bennett, author of *America: the Last Best Hope*

William J. Bennett is one of America's most important, influential, and respected voices on cultural, political, and education issues. During the 1980s, Dr. Bennett emerged as one of the nation's most prominent figures, serving as Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities and as U.S. Secretary of Education. He is a prolific author and currently hosts a nationally syndicated radio show. In addition to his distinguished federal service, Dr. Bennett has taught in the humanities departments of several universities.

The Navajo Code Talkers, creators of an unbreakable code that changed the course of modern history

Phillip Johnston's idea -- to use the ancient Navajo language as a secure communications code -- came at an important time in our history, when Japanese intelligence experts were able to break every code the U.S. forces devised. Johnston, a World War I Veteran, was the son of a missionary. He was reared on the Navajo reservation and spoke Navajo fluently. Johnston recognized the language had the potential to be an indecipherable code: it was an unwritten language of extreme complexity with no alphabet or symbols. Answering Johnston's call, a small band of Navajos became U.S. Marines. From their ancient language, these modest shepherders and farmers devised the most successful code in U.S. military history, using it to transmit secret communications in the Pacific theater from 1942-1945. At Iwo Jima, Major Howard Connor, declared, "Were it not for the Navajos, the Marines would never have taken Iwo Jima." Their heroic service played a pivotal role in saving countless lives and hastening the end of WWII.

The Honorable Daniel R. Coats, Co-Chairman, Sagamore Institute Board of Trustees

Daniel R. Coats has had a distinguished career in the private, public, and non-profit sectors. Most recently, he served as co-chairman of the government relations group at King & Spalding, an international law firm in Washington, D.C. He served as U.S. Ambassador to Germany from 2001-2005. He was a member of the U.S. Senate from 1989-1999; and of the U.S. Congress 1981-1988. He is a past President of Big Brothers Big Sisters America, and has served on many civic and volunteer organizations, including the Center for Jewish and Christian Values, which he co-chaired with Senator Joseph Lieberman.

P. Douglas Wilson, Co-Chairman, Sagamore Institute Board of Trustees

P. Douglas Wilson is the Senior Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer at Hillenbrand Inc. in Batesville, Indiana. He is also the founder and Chairman of Cricket Knoll Equity, a multi-disciplinary thought studio. Prior to his current positions, Mr. Wilson was vice president, Worldwide Merger Integration for Boston Scientific Corporation. He was named to this role upon the close of the merger of Guidant Corporation and Boston Scientific. He served twenty years in senior executive positions at Eli Lilly. In addition, he chairs the Center for Executive Leadership based in Beijing.

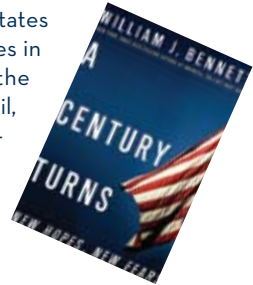
Mr. Jay F. Hein, President, Sagamore Institute

Jay Hein is President of the Sagamore Institute for Policy Research, an Indianapolis-based think tank that he helped found in 2004. He was Deputy Assistant to the President and director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives from August 2006-August 2008. Mr. Hein is also a Distinguished Senior Fellow at Baylor University's Institute for the Study of Religion. Earlier in his career, Mr. Hein was a welfare reform policy advisor to Governor Tommy Thompson of Wisconsin from 1994 to 1997 and director of civil society programs at the Hudson Institute from 1997 to 2004.



Recognizing that American students today know startlingly little about the innovative and foundational ideas that comprise the history of this nation, Dr. Bennett has published a gripping and memorable three-volume history of the United States entitled *America: the Last Best Hope*, which appeared on the New York Times bestseller list.

Dr. Bennett's most recent volume in his history of the United States entitled, *A Century Turns: New Hopes, New Fears*, hit bookstores in early March. It brings the series up to present day, covering the years of 1998-2008, and includes the emergence of email, "www", Google, and iPod - terms that did not exist in our vernacular a few years prior. It also addresses the time frame as a pivotal point in our history, one that served as a test of the fundamental principles of America and American resolve. He believes America passed that test well, with democracy taking hold in the Middle East.



Advancing the work of Dr. Bennett is the mission of Team HOPE (History Opens Eyes). This team of Milken educators is lead by Dr. Rex Bolinger, a Senior Fellow with Sagamore Institute, and former Indiana Principal of the Year. Team HOPE is working to revolutionize the way American History is taught in schools and colleges across the nation, through captivating and compelling text and on-line supplements written with suspense, drama, romance, and intrigue. This work has captured the hearts of readers and brought excitement and interest to our national heritage.



Are you interested in preserving the legacy of the Navajo Code Talkers? Planning and development for the Navajo Code Talkers Museum and Veterans Center is well underway, with final construction phases expected to be complete by late 2011, early 2012. To support interactive exhibits and activities, living demonstrations of the Navajo code and culture, classrooms, and a Veterans Center with on-site lodging for Veterans and guests, please make a donation online at http://www.navajocodetalkers.org/donate_and_support/.

Founders List

2004-2005

We are most grateful to our early supporters, those who believed in the importance of a think tank rooted in the Midwest and committed to applied research. As we reflect on five years of putting ideas into action in the Heartland and beyond, we redouble our commitment to our place and our purpose. We honor our founders with gratitude for their past support, and optimism about what we can accomplish together in the coming years.



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