



Glenn, Queen Noor, Nichols, Dove and Cooper Named Winners of 2006 Common Wealth Awards

Five world-renowned achievers honored for their contributions to society

WILMINGTON, Del., March 1, 2006 – The Common Wealth Awards of Distinguished Service continue nearly three decades of honoring some of the world's greatest achievers and leaders as the 2006 winners are announced today. These prestigious awards are presented annually to individuals who have enriched and improved the world through their exceptional lifetime achievements.

Winners of the 2006 Common Wealth Awards are:

- **John Glenn**, former U.S. Senator, astronaut and heroic pioneer of American space exploration, for Government;
- **H.M. Queen Noor of Jordan**, a leading voice for global peace-building, human rights and conflict recovery issues, for Public Service;
- **Mike Nichols**, pre-eminent and award-winning director of stage and screen, for Dramatic Arts;
- **Rita Dove**, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and two-term Poet Laureate of the United States, for Literature;
- **Anderson Cooper**, leading broadcast journalist and CNN news anchor of *Anderson Cooper 360°*, for Mass Communications.

The honorees will receive a shared prize of \$250,000 at the Common Wealth Awards celebration April 1 at the Hotel du Pont in Wilmington.

The Common Wealth Awards of Distinguished Service were first presented in 1979 by the Common Wealth Trust, created under the will of the late Ralph Hayes, an influential business executive and philanthropist. Hayes conceived the awards to reward and encourage the best of human performance worldwide. With the 2006 presentation, the awards will have conferred more than \$3.5 million in prize money to 157 honorees of international renown. The awards are funded by the Common Wealth Trust.

The final selection of the honorees is the decision of the Executory of the Common Wealth Trust. PNC Bank, Delaware has been trustee and administrator for the Common Wealth Awards since their inception. PNC Bank, Delaware is a member of The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. (NYSE: PNC).

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“The 2006 Common Wealth Award winners represent the spectrum of human endeavors and the finest of human achievement,” said Connie Bond Stuart, chairman, president and CEO of PNC Bank, Delaware. “They are leaders, innovators and artists who have used their special talents to make a difference in our world. We applaud these remarkable individuals for their accomplishments, and we honor Ralph Hayes for the inspired legacy he created in the Common Wealth Awards.”

Hayes served on the board of directors of PNC Bank, Delaware’s predecessor banks from 1943 to 1965. Through the Common Wealth Awards, he sought to recognize outstanding achievement in seven disciplines: dramatic arts, literature, science and invention, mass communications, public service, government, and sociology. The awards also provide an incentive for people to make future contributions to the world community.

The roster of past honorees reveals the caliber of talent and the global scope of the honorees and their achievements. Among the past winners are 11 Nobel laureates, including human rights leader Archbishop Desmond Tutu, former statesman Henry Kissinger and author Toni Morrison. Other winners include former Secretary of State Colin Powell; children’s television icon, the late Fred Rogers; Broadway director-choreographer Susan Stroman; primatologist Jane Goodall; ocean explorer Robert Ballard, actress Meryl Streep; television journalist Walter Cronkite; and retired DuPont scientist, Stephanie Kwolek, the Delaware resident who helped invent Kevlar.

“The 2006 winners continue the tradition of excellence and leadership symbolized by the Common Wealth Awards,” said PNC’s Stuart.

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