
Claiborne Pell

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March 3, 1994

Honorable Jane Alexander
Chair
National Endowment for the Arts
110 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20506

Dear Jane:

I write to urge as strongly as I can that Livingston L. Biddle, Jr., be selected as a recipient for the National Medal of Arts.

Quite frankly, I can think of no other person who is more deserving of this distinguished award than Liv Biddle. He was the lead staff person and played the pivotal role in fashioning and helping secure passage of the landmark legislation that resulted in the establishment of the National Endowment of the Arts.

From the Professional Staff Member charged with responsibilities for Arts and Humanities on the U. S. Senate Subcommittee on Education, Arts, and Humanities, Liv moved to the National Endowment where he served as Deputy Chairman. In 1977 he was selected by President Carter to serve as Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. He earned high marks as an extremely competent Chairman who provided exceptional leadership.

Since its inception, almost two and one-half billion dollars in grants have been made by the Endowment to support arts projects and programs throughout America. It is without question that this would not have been possible had it not been for the extraordinary and visionary leadership of Liv Biddle.

If we talk about people who have made a lifetime of contributions to the arts, Liv is one who has done that himself and also made it possible for others to do likewise. To award him the National Medal of Arts would, to my mind, be a most fitting and appropriate expression of the deep debt of gratitude we all owe him for an outstanding career in the arts.

With warm regards,

Ever sincerely,

Claiborne Pell
Chairman
Subcommittee on Education, Arts and Humanities