



McCullough Helps Dedicate Library

“To speak of a Jefferson Library is to risk sounding redundant,” historian and author David McCullough noted, “being that he was a library unto himself.”

That notwithstanding, the two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize delivered the featured address at the dedication of the Jefferson Library on April 13.

McCullough, an Honorary Trustee of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, used the occasion to cite the relevance and importance of Jefferson’s spirit and ideals in today’s turbulent world.



T.J.F./Stephanie Gross

David McCullough addressing the crowd at the April 13 dedication of the Jefferson Library.

“In such a lovely setting, in such very good company in springtime in Virginia, it would be easy to forget that we are at war, and that the merciless cause of the foe is enforced ignorance,” McCullough said to the crowd of approximately 300 gathered in front of the new facility. “But the day, the setting, the ideals of Thomas Jefferson could not be more timely and to the point than on this, his 259th birthday.

“Opening this magnificent new library in his name, we again unfurl the glorious banners of liberal education, the open mind, the pursuit of truth, freedom of religion, the free and open exchange of ideas, the love of learning—the very spirit of the good society so eloquently set forth by that lanky, bookish soul mate from up the hill whose

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Library Dedication

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presence will be felt here henceforth more than ever before.”

McCullough, who won his second Pulitzer earlier this year for the biography *John Adams*, was preceded by other speakers, including University of Virginia President John T. Casteen III, U.S. Sen. George Allen of Virginia, and Virginia Gov. Mark R. Warner.

The ribbon-cutting was performed by TJF Board of Trustees member Mrs. Martin S. (Luella) Davis.

The 15,500-square-foot Jefferson Library, built at a cost of approximately \$5.5 million, is located at Kenwood, home of Monticello's International Center for Jefferson Studies, approximately ½ mile east of the entrance to Monticello.

The library contains shelf space for 28,000 volumes, a special collections room, the Robert H. and Clarice Smith Reading Room, the Berkeley and Nichols conference rooms, an informal “common” room, a multimedia center, and 20 offices, including those of the editorial staff of *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson: Retirement Series*. The facility also features high-speed Internet connections throughout the building.

The Jefferson Library's operating hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The library is open to the public, but there is no lending service and visitors are required to register upon arrival.

COMMENTS? newsletter@monticello.org