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Lin, Kinser and Peterson receive 2011 Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medals



Renowned architect and designer Maya Lin, chief justice of the Virginia Supreme Court Cynthia Kinser and philanthropist Pete Peterson have been awarded the 2011 Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medals.

The medals, which are sponsored jointly by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation and the University of Virginia, recognize outstanding achievement in three fields of great interest to Jefferson—citizen leadership, law and architecture. They are the highest external honors bestowed by the foundation and the university, which grants no honorary degrees.

The Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medals were presented April 13, during Founder's Day activities. The recipients

also were honored at Monticello on the evening of April 12.

"Thomas Jefferson's legacy has created a strong and lasting partnership between Monticello and the University of Virginia. The Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medals pay tribute to our common founder and acknowledge the men and women of our time who embody the principles Jefferson exemplified," said Leslie Greene Bowman, president of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation.

Lin, the 46th recipient of the TJF Medal in Architecture, is the renowned architect and designer of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.; the Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery, Ala.; and the Women's Table at Yale University. Throughout her career, Lin has maintained a careful balance between art and architecture. She creates large-scale site-specific installations, intimate studio artworks, and architectural works and memorials. Drawn to critical social and historical issues, ecological restoration, and environmentalism, Lin uses her artwork to inspire others.

Kinser, recipient of the 35th TJF Medal in Law, is Virginia's first female chief justice. She is a distinguished jurist and attorney who was a groundbreaking legal figure in her native Southwest Virginia long before she joined the state Supreme Court. In 1980, Kinser was elected as Lee County's first female commonwealth's attorney. After one term as a prosecutor,

she returned to private practice in Pennington Gap. In 1990, she was appointed a U.S. magistrate judge for the Western District of Virginia. In 1997, Kinser was appointed to the Supreme Court of Virginia. In 2010, she was elected by her colleagues to serve as chief justice, succeeding Leroy Rountree Hassell.

Peterson is the fifth recipient of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medal in Citizen Leadership. He is the founder of the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, whose mission is to increase public awareness of the nature and urgency of key long-term fiscal challenges threatening America's future and to accelerate action on them, and he supports other charitable activities. In 1971, President Nixon named him assistant to the president for international economic affairs. One year later, he was named U.S. secretary of commerce. Peterson was chairman and CEO of Lehman Brothers and its successor company, Lehman Brothers, Kuhn and Loeb, from 1973 to 1984. In 1985, he co-founded the private equity and investment management firm, the Blackstone Group, and was for many years its chairman. From 2000 to 2004, he chaired the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.



Chief Justice Cynthia Kinser, recipient the TJF Medal in Law; Maya Lin, recipient of the TJF Medal in Architecture; and Pete Peterson, recipient of TJF Medal in Citizen Leadership. TJF