2014 Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medalists

In commemoration of Jefferson’s birthday each year, the Thomas Jefferson Foundation and The University of Virginia present their highest honors, the Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medals in architecture, law and citizen leadership. The awards are inspired by three areas in which Thomas Jefferson himself excelled.

As part of the 2014 celebrations, James H. Webb, Jr., the 2014 Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medalist in Citizen Leadership, spoke at Monticello’s commemoration of Jefferson’s 271st birthday on the West Lawn. Webb is a former U.S. senator (D-Va.), former secretary of the Navy, and a decorated war veteran who served as an infantry officer in Vietnam. He has written nine books. As a journalist he covered Afghanistan in 2004, and earned an Emmy Award for PBS coverage of the U.S. Marines in Beirut. His original story, “Rules of Engagement,” which he executive-produced, was released in April 2000 starring Tommy Lee Jones and Samuel L. Jackson.

Toyo Ito, a Tokyo-based architect and 2013 winner of the Pritzker Prize, received the Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medal in Architecture. Ito’s masterpiece, the Sendai Mediatheque, reimagines what a public museum and library should be in the digital age. Kenneth R. Feinberg received the Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medal in Law. Feinberg is an attorney who administered the compensation funds for victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, the 2007 shootings at Virginia Tech and the Boston Marathon bombings.