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Preserving America's Heritage

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## National Trust for Historic Preservation Honors Former First Lady Laura Bush, ACHP Chairman John L. Nau, III

NASHVILLE, TN – Mrs. Laura W. Bush and John L. Nau, III, chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), today received the John H. Chafee Trustees Award for Outstanding Achievement in Public Policy in recognition of their leadership of the Preserve America program.

The honors were announced and presented at the National Trust for Historic Preservation 2009 annual conference.

“From monuments and buildings to landscapes and main streets, Preserve America strives to ensure that our country’s historic properties, artifacts and communities can be enjoyed by future generations,” Bush said. “I appreciate the National Trust for Historic Preservation for their tireless advocacy of preservation efforts all across our country.”

Preserve America began as an Administration initiative in 2003 with President George W. Bush’s issuance of Executive Order 13287. Mrs. Bush served as the honorary chair of the effort. Nau was appointed chairman of the ACHP in 2001 and worked tirelessly to create, expand, and implement the many components of Preserve America. Preserve America was recognized as an ongoing preservation program by the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 that was signed into law by President Barack Obama this spring.

Today the Preserve America program includes the following: a community designation program for local governments that champion historic preservation activities and actively incorporate them into contemporary community life; a matching grants program for preservation planning, marketing, and educational efforts using heritage resources; a presidential award honoring national historic preservation and heritage tourism efforts; an expanding federal-local effort to use service learning in schools to improve history education through authentic experience of place; and, a stewardship recognition program that recognizes and shares exemplary volunteer efforts to preserve America’s heritage.

“It was an honor to work with President and Mrs. Bush in establishing the Preserve America program, which I regard as one of the most significant federal steps toward broadly sharing the benefits of preservation since the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966,” Nau said. “The federal government works best when it works in partnership with local, state, and tribal governments and organizations and the private sector, and that strategy was the foundation of Preserve America.”

*The ACHP is an independent federal agency that promotes the preservation, enhancement, and productive use of the nation’s historic resources and advises the President and Congress on national historic preservation policy. For more information visit [www.achp.gov](http://www.achp.gov) and [www.preserveamerica.gov](http://www.preserveamerica.gov)*

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