



# Americans for Madison.org

February 2009--Hadley Nagel, Editor/ Publisher--To join us or for more information, visit our website at <http://www.americansformadison.org>-- ©Americans For Madison, 2009

## C-SPAN SELLING BROADCAST OF AFM'S 1st SYMPOSIUM MARKING START OF MADISON BI-CENTENNIAL

New York, NY—C-SPAN has broadcast and is now selling video recordings of the American For Madison's first symposium marking the start of the eight year Bi-Centennial of Madison's 1809-1817 Presidency. Following welcoming remarks by New York Historical Society President **Louise Mirrer** and an introduction by AFM Founder **Hadley Nagel**, the AFM sponsored event features an engaging discussion of Madison by **Benno Schmidt, Jr.** and AFM's Advisory Board Members **Joseph Ellis** and **Sean Wilentz**. Filmed in the main auditorium of this city's landmark New York Historical Society building on October 2 before a stand-

ing room only audience, other notable AFM Advisory Board Members present included Madison biographer **Ralph Ketcham**, Montpelier Foundation President **Michael C. Quinn** and Gilder Lehrman Institute of

American History President **James G. Basker**.

### CSPAN's Video Features AFM Speakers

Both Ellis and Wilentz have brought a wealth of insight to the event's discussion of Madison from long academic careers that have focused upon the period surrounding Madison. Ellis, a Pulitzer prize winning author, is the Ford Foundation Professor of History at Mount Holyoke College. Wilentz, a winner of the Bancroft Prize, is a Professor of History at Princeton University and General Editor of its Madison Library. Ellis and Wilentz are widely noted for providing historical insights to contemporary events through their frequent commentary in the national press.

To order a copy of the video, visit: [http://www.c-spanarchives.org/library/index.php?main\\_page=product\\_video\\_info&products\\_id=281562-1](http://www.c-spanarchives.org/library/index.php?main_page=product_video_info&products_id=281562-1)



Shown above in C-SPAN's new video of AFM's 1<sup>st</sup> Public Bi-Centennial Event is the original 1833 Asher B. Durand portrait of Madison and Benno C. Schmidt, Jr., chairman of the City University of New York and former President of Yale University and Dean of Columbia University Law School who led the Ellis and Wilentz discussion after Mirrer's Welcome and Nagel's Introduction.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE ...WITH 111<sup>th</sup> HR 3640 GAINS NEW MOMENTUM

Washington, D.C.—A key legislator supporting the legacy of James Madison is expected to bring before the newly convened 111<sup>th</sup> Congress plans for creating a James Madison Memorial Commission.

Congressional sources have advised that once the new Congress has finalized its economic recovery plans, **Representative Baron Hill (D, IN-9<sup>th</sup>)** will move to have

the House adopt legislation that replicates HR 3640 of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress and would lead to the formulation of a Federal celebration of Madison's Bi-Centennial and the construction of a national monument to Madison on the National Mall.

With a key date in the commencement of the Bi-Centennial of the Madison Presidency rapidly approaching on his original Inauguration Day of March 4, Madison's long-time Congressional supporters **Representatives Baron Hill (D, IN-9<sup>th</sup>)** and **Brian Baird (D, WA-3<sup>rd</sup>)** are expected to see an expansion of interest in supporting legislation that has sought creation of a James Madison Memorial Commission. Notably, **Representative Eric Cantor (R, VA-7<sup>th</sup>)**, current Republican Whip and holder of the House seat once held by Madison, appears positioned to add his bi-partisan support to the Madison Bi-Centennial effort.

Alert your Washington, D.C. representatives of your interest in saluting the Bi-Centennial of Madison's Presidency. Visit our site to transmit emails to Congress—

<http://www.rallycongress.com/americansformadison>



## MADISON ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER GEORGE RECEIVES MAJOR MEDAL

Princeton, NJ and Washington, D.C.— The Presidential Citizens Medal has been awarded by the President of the United States to AFM Advisory Board member **Robert George**.

Recognized as the second highest award a President can bestow upon a citizen, George was presented his medal in a special White House ceremony on December 10. Technically, the President awards the medal to "U.S. citizens who have performed exemplary deeds or services for his or her country or fellow citizens." Of the millions of citizens who conscientiously help the Nation every year, on average, less than a half dozen ever achieve the accolade. Only the Presidential Medal of Freedom stands higher among awards that the President of the United States can extend to a citizen. The award was first established in 1969 and five of its recipients have gone on to eventually receive the Medal of Freedom.

The award comes after years of George working as a distinguished constitutional scholar on behalf of various projects for the Nation including service on the United States Commission on Civil Rights, as a judicial fellow at the Supreme Court and as the U.S. member of the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology.

In addition to these projects, George has been a long time faculty member at Princeton University where he is the McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence and Director of its James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions.

### James Madison and Robert George's Common Denominators: Princeton University and the Constitution

It is through his leadership of Princeton's James Madison Program and reputation as a constitutional scholar that George has established a special relationship with Americans for Madison. While Madison's role in formulating the Constitution is well known, he was also Princeton's first graduate student. A member of the Class of 1771, he remained on campus until the spring of 1772 reading law and studying Hebrew. In 1787, Princeton awarded Madison an honorary Doctor of Laws and, in 1826, he was elected the first president of its newly formed Alumni association.



Americans for Madison's Robert "Robbie" George was recently awarded a Presidential Citizens Medal following years of commuting from his academic post at Princeton.



The gilt and enamel medal has an eagle surrounded by a wreath of leaves suspended on a dark blue ribbon with a light blue central stripe and white edge stripes.

