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**Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site
Will Present First Annual Advancing American
Democracy Award to The Honorable U.S. Senator
Richard G. Lugar**

**Award to be Presented September 30
At "An Evening at The President's Table"
At The Conrad Indianapolis**

INDIANAPOLIS – The Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site will present its first annual Advancing American Democracy Award to The Honorable Senator Richard G. Lugar at the fifth annual Mary Tucker Jasper Speaker Series dinner program, "An Evening at The President's Table," Thursday, September 30 at 6 p.m. at the Conrad Indianapolis, Phyllis Geeslin, CEO/President of the Harrison Site, announced today.

"The Advancing American Democracy Award recognizes an individual who advances the values of American democracy by encouraging and enabling ethical citizen participation in government, thereby mirroring the mission of the Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site," explained Geeslin. "For the first awarding of this honor, we couldn't think of anyone who meets the criteria any more perfectly than Indiana's own Senator Richard G. Lugar."

Geeslin identified Lugar's impact on the local community by saying, "We see this emphasis in the work of Senator Lugar through his Excellence in Public Service Series, his Fund for Hoosier Excellence, the Symposium for Tomorrow's Leaders at the UIndy, the Richard G. Lugar Franciscan Center for Global Studies at Marion University and in the lives of all the political community leaders who have benefitted from his mentoring."

"Senator Lugar has served our state and our nation with both honor and wisdom and has been at the forefront of efforts to promote peace and democracy around the globe. I can think of no one who is more deserving or who epitomizes more the purpose of this award than Richard Lugar," said Susanne Ridlen, chairman of the board of directors of the Harrison Presidential Site.

Well-known to Hoosiers for the six decades of his public service career, Lugar has served six terms as U.S. Senator, being first elected in 1976. He has proven to be an unwavering advocate of U.S. leadership in the world, strong national security, free trade and economic growth.

Lugar is the Republican leader of the Foreign Relations Committee and a member and former chairman of the Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee. His accomplishments are many, including being a leader in reducing the threat of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons; building bipartisan support for farm program reforms; promoting broader risk management options for farmers, research advancements, increased export opportunities and higher net farm income; leading initiatives to streamline the U.S. Department of Agriculture, reform the food stamp program and preserve the federal school lunch program; launching the Lugar Energy Initiative, which recognizes that energy security impacts every aspect of life in the U.S.

Lugar's Hoosier commonsense has been recognized many times through such awards as Guardian of Small Business, the Spirit of Enterprise, Watchdog of the Treasury, and 41 honorary degrees from colleges and universities in 14 states and the District of Columbia. He was only the fourth person named Outstanding Legislator by the American Political Science Association.

The September 30 program's guest speaker, Barry H. Landau, known as 'the keeper of America's scrapbook' for his collection of a million-plus pieces of Presidential artifacts and memorabilia, will regale dinner attendees with a stream of stories about the rich, famous, and politically connected. He will greet guests at a 4:30 reception at the President's mansion, 1230 North Delaware Street, prior to the 6 p.m. dinner at the Conrad Indianapolis.

Landau is recognized as one of America's foremost experts on the Presidency and White House protocol. He has served nine U.S. Presidents and has planned historic events with every White House since Lyndon Johnson's. For more than 40 years, he has brought his expertise to producing thousands of

Presidential events in the U.S. and abroad, forging alliances with both heads of state and royalty.

The special occasion on September 30 is the fifth annual Mary Tucker Jasper Speaker Series program and will benefit the educational programs of the Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site. Reservations for “An Evening at The President’s Table” are being accepted at 317-631-1888. Tickets are priced at several levels. In addition, event organizers are offering underwriting opportunities, including dinner sponsorships and supporting sponsorships. Interested parties should contact Erin Trisler at 317-631-1888 or development@pbhh.org.

The Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site, Inc., preserves and maintains the historic 1875 Italianate Victorian home of the 23rd President, the only Hoosier elected to the Presidency, as a museum and memorial, accredited by the American Association of Museums.

The three-level landmark home has been renovated in historically authentic fashion and contains many of Harrison’s paintings, furniture, decorative arts, and unique political memorabilia. In addition, the museum contains the 800-piece Harrison Collection from the Harrison family, many pieces of which had never been in the public domain.

More information is available on the museum’s website: www.pbhh.org.

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**NOTE: Photo of U.S. Senator Richard G. Lugar is attached.
Photo of the Advancing American Democracy Award to be presented to U.S. Senator Richard G. Lugar September 30 by the Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site at “An Evening at The President’s Table” at the Conrad Indianapolis.**
