



THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

National Heritage Lecture on Expanded Executive Power *Program featured Author and Historian, Dr. Douglas Brinkley*

October 10, 2025 (Washington, D.C.) – Held in partnership with the U.S. Capitol Historical Society and the Supreme Court Historical Society, the White House Historical Association welcomed Dr. Douglas Brinkley to deliver the 2025 National Heritage Lecture on October 9, 2025, at historic Decatur House.

[Click here to see images from this event.](#)

Dr. Brinkley’s presentation, “Presidential Evolution: A History of Executive Orders Over 47 Presidencies,” explored how presidents have historically used the pen to protect and even expand executive power. During the event, it was revealed the annual program will now be called “Three Branches One Nation,” as a part of the America 250 celebrations.

The National Heritage Lecture was established in 1991 by the White House Historical Association, United States Capitol Historical Society, and Supreme Court Historical Society. Its purpose is to enhance the knowledge and appreciation of the American system of government and the principles upon which it was founded. Hosted in turn by each of the three historical societies, the National Heritage Lecture explores one of the three branches of government, and the momentous events and personalities associated with its history.

About Dr. Douglas Brinkley

Brinkley is the Katherine Tsanoff Brown Chair in Humanities and Professor of History at Rice University, CNN Presidential Historian, and a contributing editor at Vanity Fair. He works in many capacities in the world of public history, including on boards, museums, colleges, and historical societies.

About the White House Historical Association

The White House Historical Association was founded in 1961 by First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy to support her vision to restore and preserve the Executive Mansion and its legacy for generations to come. Mrs. Kennedy sought to inspire Americans, especially children, to explore and engage with American history and its presidents. Supported entirely by private resources, the Association is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that has contributed more than \$115 million to the White House in fulfillment of its mission. To learn more about the White House Historical Association, please visit WhiteHouseHistory.org.

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