Southern Historical Association announces the John Hope Franklin Lifetime Achievement Award Winner

Athens, GA: The Southern Historical Association is pleased to announce the winner of the 2017 John Hope Franklin Lifetime Achievement Award: Darlene Clark Hine, John A. Hannah Distinguished Professor of History at Michigan State University.

First awarded in 2007, the John Hope Franklin Lifetime Achievement Award is made every five years in recognition of an individual who has had a distinguished career in southern history, contributing significantly to scholarship while exhibiting the outstanding qualities of citizenship embodied by the award’s namesake.

In making this year’s award, the SHA’s Franklin committee noted that Hine’s career has been “more than impressive, it’s been pioneering.” Hine helped to found the field of Black Women’s history, contributing more than a dozen authored and co-authored books. She is past president of the Organization of American Historians and the Southern Historical Association and was the keynote speaker at a conference devoted to “Embracing the Legacy of John Hope Franklin” in 2009, the year he passed away. “We cannot conceive of a more deserving candidate,” the award committee noted in making its decision. “Hine’s career has been deeply active, productive, and consequential.”

About the SHA: The Southern Historical Association was organized on November 2, 1934 and charged with promoting an "investigative rather than a memorial approach" to southern history. Its objectives are the promotion of interest and research in southern history, the collection and preservation of the South’s historical records, and the encouragement of state and local historical societies in the South. As a secondary purpose the Association fosters the teaching and study of all areas of history in the South. The Association holds an annual meeting, usually in the first or second week of November, and publishes The Journal of Southern History.

About John Hope Franklin: John Hope Franklin received his M.A. and Ph.D. in history from Harvard University in 1936 and 1941 respectively. He dedicated his career to the idea that the story of the United States could not be told adequately or fairly without weaving African Americans deeply into the fabric. Franklin is perhaps best known for From Slavery to Freedom published in 1947. He was awarded the nation’s highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, in 1995.

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