



Statement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

August 19, 2017

**A Statement from Chairman David M. Rubenstein & President Deborah F. Rutter
Regarding the 2017 Kennedy Center Honors**

(WASHINGTON) – Kennedy Center Chairman David M. Rubenstein and President Deborah F. Rutter released the following statement, responding to news issued from the White House earlier today that the President of the United States and the First Lady will not participate in 2017 Kennedy Center Honors activities:

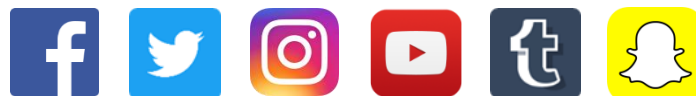
“The Kennedy Center respects the decision made today by the office of the President of the United States. In choosing not to participate in this year’s Honors activities, the Administration has graciously signaled its respect for the Kennedy Center and ensures the Honors gala remains a deservedly special moment for the Honorees. We are grateful for this gesture.”

The State Department Dinner and Awards Ceremony on December 2 and the Honors Gala on December 3 will continue as planned. All Honorees—Carmen de Lavallade, Gloria Estefan, LL COOL J, Norman Lear, and Lionel Richie—are expected to attend the weekend’s Honors events. The December 3 pre-gala White House Reception will no longer take place.

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