



*“Actors have Oscars. Live theater, the Tony Awards. Journalists receive Pulitzers and scientists Nobel Prizes. Now there is the Lincoln — for veterans” - USA Today*

October 27, 2014

Dear Justin,

Congratulations! You have been selected to receive an inaugural Lincoln Award in the category of Veteran.

This coming January, the Friars Club through its Foundation, will present the first annual ***Lincoln Awards: A Concert for Veterans & the Military Family***, recognizing outstanding achievement and excellence in providing opportunities and support to our nation’s veterans and military families.

On **January 6, 2015** you along with the additional award Recipients will be honored with a special ceremony at an exclusive location in Washington, DC. On **January 7, 2015**, at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Concert Hall, we will present an All-Star concert (modeled after the Kennedy Center Honors), featuring a line-up of the biggest names in music, comedy, film and television, saluting the Lincoln Award Recipients. The entire audience will be filled with veterans, wounded warriors, their caregivers and military families, as well as distinguished and honored military guests.

We received hundreds of nominations from the general public through an open call for submissions. After several months of review and vetting the Lincoln Awards Selection Committee ([thelincolnawards.org/our-team/](http://thelincolnawards.org/our-team/)) chose you as the Recipient in the Veteran category.

Next year marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln’s landmark second inaugural address, which laid the groundwork for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Four years into a devastating civil war, Lincoln used this speech to outline America’s commitment “to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan.” These words forever changed how our nation treats those who serve. It is only fitting to mark the occasion by honoring Lincoln’s memory and saluting American veterans and those who serve them.

We will be in touch with you shortly to arrange travel for you and a guest to/from Washington, DC and further details regarding the upcoming events. Should you have questions, please don’t hesitate to be in touch with myself, or the Lincoln Awards production office at (212) 603-0640.

We look forward to seeing you in Washington in January!

Sincerely,

The Honorable Tommy Sowers, Ph.D.  
Event Chairman  
Iraq Veteran, Green Beret  
Former Assistant Secretary at Veterans Affairs  
[www.thelincolnawards.org](http://www.thelincolnawards.org)