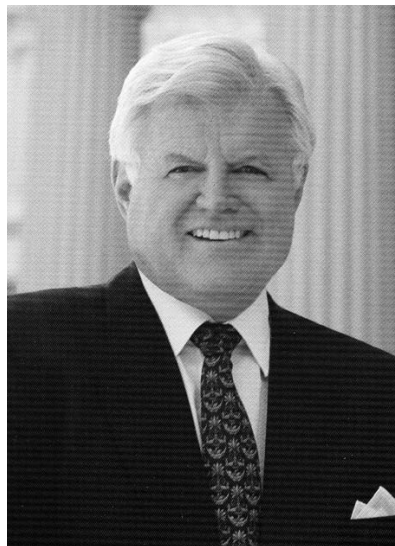

Scholar-Patriot Award

The American Academy of Arts and Sciences was founded by a group of patriots who devoted their lives to promoting the practical arts and sciences “to cultivate every art and science which may tend to advance the interest, honor, dignity, and happiness of a free, independent and virtuous people.”

On October 11, 2008, the American Academy bestowed its Scholar-Patriot Award on Edward M. Kennedy for his extraordinary service to the Academy, the community, and the nation.



Edward M. Kennedy

For four decades you have been a fierce defender of the ideals of opportunity, equity, and justice. Master of quiet collaboration and inspired oratory, you have achieved an unparalleled legislative record. Your efforts to insure quality education and health care for all Americans, including your leadership on the Americans with Disabilities Act, the State Children’s Health Insurance Program, and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, have earned you the respect of men and women across the political spectrum. From your first major bill on immigration reform to your recent call for a renewed commitment to community service, you have championed an open and inclusive society. To your family and the nation, you are a profile of courageous leadership, the guardian of a dream that lives on.

The founding members of the American Academy were pragmatic visionaries, anticipating the needs of a young republic for both wise governance and fresh ideas. You follow in their footsteps as a Scholar-Patriot for our time. Asserting that “our future does not belong to those who are content with today,” you have fulfilled the Academy’s historic mission, translating knowledge into action and celebrating the life of the mind in service to the community, the nation, and the world. ■