

Administration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr., 2024

Statement on the Death of James Earl Jones

September 10, 2024

One of the last times I was with James Earl Jones was at Ford's Theatre 10 years ago in Washington. He was being honored with the Lincoln Medal for his exemplary character and accomplishments on film and stage. I admired him for something else as well, something we both had in common: overcoming a childhood stutter to find our voice for something bigger than ourselves.

His legendary voice boomed wherever it was heard, an instrument and imprint that reverberated in the hearts of audiences worldwide. And we've all heard it.

Through iconic characters, film, stage, commercials, radio, and more, his voice carried a sense of grace and dignity that commanded respect and demanded to be heard. His roles made us stop, stayed with us, and inspired us to reflect on everything from race and power, good and evil, to our place in the world.

For his remarkable talent, James has received numerous honors, including two Emmy awards, a Grammy award, an honorary Oscar, and two Tony awards, making him one of few Americans to earn an EGOT.

He was a proud Army veteran, and I will always remember him as someone who served this country, influenced generations, and became one of the greatest actors of our time.

Jill and I send our love and condolences to his son Flynn, his brother Matthew, and everyone he inspired and who he will continue to inspire as his voice echoes for the ages.

May God bless James Earl Jones.

Categories: Statements by the President : James Earl Jones, death.

Names: Biden, Jill T.; Jones, Flynn E.; Jones, James Earl; Jones, Matthew E.

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