



From darkness, light.

For Immediate Release

Contact: Clare Legg
713-805-7882/clegg@hmh.org

**2022 LBJ Moral Courage Award Dinner
honoring the late
Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg raises \$2 million**

Featured performer, Emmy and Tony Award-winning actress and singer Kristin Chenoweth, donates her fee back to the Museum

HOUSTON (May 18, 2022)...Holocaust Museum Houston (HMH) honored Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg (posthumously) with the Lyndon Baines Johnson Moral Courage Award, accepted by the late icon's son James Ginsburg, Tuesday, May 17, 2022, at the Hilton Americas-Houston. Topping off the evening was a rousing performance by Emmy and Tony Award-winning actress and singer Kristin Chenoweth. The soirée raised in excess of \$2 million for general operating funds with a focus on educational programming, making this year's dinner one of the most successful in the Museum's history and the one of the largest with 1,300 guests.

Holocaust Museum Houston presents the Lyndon Baines Johnson Moral Courage Award to individuals who have taken a stand against injustice, hatred and prejudice, and used their skills and influence to make a better world for all people. This year's recipient, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, affectionately called "RBG" by her supporters, has inspired generations of women to break gender barriers. Even after facing gender discrimination as she pursued her academic goals, Ginsburg forged ahead and became the second woman—and first Jewish woman—to serve on the Supreme Court.

The 2022 LBJ Moral Courage Award occurred in conjunction with the exhibition *Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg*, a vibrant exploration of the life of the judicial trailblazer. The exhibition's only stop in Texas is on view through July 31 in the Josef and Edith Minckberg Gallery at Holocaust Museum Houston's Lester and Sue Smith Campus, 5401 Caroline Street.

"She may have stood only five foot one, but Justice Ginsburg was truly a giant in her work on equality and justice for all," said HMH CEO Dr. Kelly J. Zúñiga. "Like LBJ, RBG is a true American icon where few in history have stood taller in exemplifying what it means to be an upstander. By way of this award and the exhibition, her remarkable story can live on to inspire others."

Under the tutelage of dynamic Dinner Chairs Mady and Ken Kades, the format of the black-tie optional affair was completely redesigned to include messages from Broadway, film and television

stars Billy Crystal, Chita Rivera, Drew McVety, Paulo Szot, Jennifer Nettles and Aaron Sorkin, culminating with an incredible live performance by Emmy and Tony Award-winning actress and singer Kristin Chenoweth.

Chenoweth reigned supreme opening her show singing “I’m A Woman” and covering a variety of hits such as “You Don’t Own Me,” “Bring Him Home” and “The Way We Were,” before treating everyone to “Popular,” made famous from her role as the original Glinda in *Wicked*. In between sipping from her Buc-ee’s big cup, Chenoweth also covered “Hallelujah,” “Somewhere Over the Rainbow,” Karen Carpenter’s “Yesterday Once More” and “Happy Days Are Here Again” before bringing the crowd to a standing ovation when she announced she would donate her fee back to the Museum once she has paid her team.

Lynn Wyatt served as Honorary Chair for the event, with Honorary Vice Chairs including Drs. Julie and Marc Boom, Andrew Davis, Sidney Faust, Lainie Gordon and David Minberg, Dr. Sippi and Ajay Khurana, Evelyn Leightman, Beth Madison, Ginni and Richard Mithoff, Y. Ping Sun and David Leebron, Warner Roberts, Phoebe and Bobby Tudor, Joy and Benjamin Warren and Sheretta West and Rev. Dr. Ralph Douglas West, Sr.

Joining Dinner Chairs Mady and Ken Kades were Sharon and Michael Brier, who served as Host Committee Chairs. The event’s Presenting Sponsors were Paula Goldstein and Mady and Ken Kades, and the Entertainment Sponsor was Edna Meyer-Nelson.

The Kosher menu included an arcadia summer green salad with hydroponic bibb lettuce, shaved radishes, blistered Campari tomato, carrot compressed watermelon, roasted pecans and an orange Dijon vinaigrette. An entree of marinated herb Chilean seabass with lemon chardonnay sauce was accompanied by Israeli couscous risotto, squash, zucchini and broccoli. Guests enjoyed swapping desserts of lemon meringue tart and chocolate layered truffle cake with berry coulis. The spectacular flowers and decor were provided by Bergner and Johnson Design.

VIPs spotted in the crowd were The Honorable Sylvester Turner, Mayor of Houston, The Honorable Lina Hidalgo, Harris County Judge, The Honorable Mike Engelhart, Harris County District Judge, The Honorable Robert Schaffer, Harris County District Judge, The Honorable Gregg Costa, U.S. Fifth Circuit Judge, The Honorable Jane Bland, Texas Supreme Court Judge, Consul of Israel to the Southwest U.S. Elad Shoshan, Susan Soussan, Former Texas District Judge, Alvin Zimmerman, Former Municipal and Texas State District Judge, Honorary Consul General to Kingdom of Thailand Charles Foster.

Notable guests included Hallie Vanderhider, Suzanne Klein, Sue Smith, Margaret Alkek Williams, Fady Armanious and Bill Baldwin, Rhona and Bruce Caress, The Honorable Theresa Chang and Dr. Peter Chang, Linda Lorelle and Lou Gregory, Ann and Karl Stern, Laurie and Dr. Milton Boniuk, Leshia and Tom Elsenbrook, Jo and Jim Furr, Elaine and Marvy Finger, Heidi and David Gerger, Sam and Barney Gershen, Winell and Doug Herron, B.J. and Buddy Herz, HMH Chair Carl Josehart and Sam Jacobson, Julie and Drew Sudduth and HMH CEO Dr. Kelly J. Zúñiga and Luis Zúñiga.

Holocaust Museum Houston created the Lyndon Baines Johnson Moral Courage Award in 1994 in cooperation with the Johnson family. In 1938, as a young congressman, Johnson stretched the limits of his authority and risked his personal dreams to provide American sanctuary for threatened European Jews. It is because of these acts of moral courage that the Museum proudly

named the award in his honor. The award recognizes either a single righteous act or a lifetime of morally courageous behavior.

Previous recipients have included Brigadier General Felix L. Sparks, posthumously; Baker Ripley and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society; George W. Bush, 43rd President of the United States; Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., posthumously; Holocaust survivor and author Elie Wiesel; activist and actress Mia Farrow; U.S. Sen. John McCain; the late Daniel Pearl, the Wall Street Journal reporter who was murdered by terrorists in Pakistan; former U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell; former U.S. Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, Jr.; former U.S. Sen. Robert Dole; filmmaker Steven Spielberg; and former U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower, posthumously, among others.

#