



THE 39th NAACP IMAGE AWARDS®

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ARETHA FRANKLIN
TO RECEIVE 2008 NAACP VANGUARD AWARD
AT THE 39TH ANNUAL NAACP IMAGE AWARDS
Ceremony to Broadcast February 14 on FOX

LOS ANGELES, CA (January 14, 2008) – The “Queen of Soul,” Aretha Franklin, will receive the prestigious NAACP VANGUARD AWARD, during the 39th NAACP Image Awards broadcast live in Los Angeles on February 14, 2008 (8:00–10:00 PM ET live/PT tape-delayed) on FOX.

“The NAACP VANGUARD AWARD is presented to a person whose groundbreaking work increases our understanding and awareness of racial and social issues. To date, it has been presented just three times before to Prince, Stanley Kramer and Steven Spielberg.” The music of Aretha Franklin has touched and inspired millions of people around the globe. We are honored to present this award to the “Queen of Soul!” commented Julian Bond, chairman of the NAACP.

Aretha Franklin’s roll call of awards and accolades is endless. She is a 17-time Grammy Award winner (second highest of any woman in history), a Grammy Living Legend and Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award honoree, the first woman inducted into the Rock And Roll Hall Of Fame, and the 2005 Presidential Medal Of Freedom recipient (America’s highest honor. . In February 2008, Franklin will be honored by MusiCares--a charity of The Recording Academy.

Known around the world by her first name, Aretha has achieved global recognition on an unprecedented scale. She has influenced generations of singers from Janis Joplin and Chaka Khan to Natalie Cole and Mary J. Blige to *AMERICAN IDOL* winner Fantasia Barrino and Oscar-winning Jennifer Hudson. Aretha’s ever-distinctive soulful, to-the-bone vocal style has graced the music charts for nearly five decades. While her live performances have touched the hearts of millions since she began her musical journey as a gospel-singing child prodigy, it is her rich legacy of recordings that are a testament to the power, majesty and genius of this one-of-a-kind artist.

Dozens of chart-topping records established Aretha as a cultural icon, with an astonishing eight consecutive Grammy Awards for Best R&B Vocal Female between 1967 and 1974. Included in her litany of timeless classics are “I Never Loved A Man (The Way I Love You),” “Respect,” “Baby I Love You,” “(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman,” “Chain Of Fools,” “Think,” “Don’t Play That Song,” “Day Dreaming,” “Jump To

FOX

It,” “Get It Right,” “Freeway Of Love,” “A Rose Is Still A Rose,” and dozens of others from a list of more than 100 singles that have made the charts.

Founded in 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is the nation’s oldest and largest civil rights organization. Its half-million adult and youth members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities and monitor equal opportunity in the public and private sectors.

Event Sponsors:

FedEx returns as a major sponsor this year. Additional sponsors include American Airlines, Allstate Insurance Company, Best Buy, Chevrolet, Ford Motor Company, Sprint, Wachovia Corporation, and Diageo.

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