American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society
Present Lifetime Achievement Award to Dan Rather
Legendary Anchor and Award-Winning Broadcast Journalist Related to Mitt Romney, John Kerry, and Patrick Swayze

May 3, 2019—Boston, Massachusetts—At its annual Family History Benefit Dinner recently, American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) honored broadcast journalist Dan Rather, an individual it lauded as “a living legend—one of the most extraordinary communicators of our time.”

D. Brenton Simons, President and CEO of NEHGS, presented Rather with the organization’s Lifetime Achievement Award in broadcast journalism, citing Rather’s career role as “an integral part of our national conversation.” And, following the tradition of NEHGS at its annual benefit gala, Simons presented Rather with a detailed genealogy, expertly researched by NEHGS staff, revealing the legendary television anchor’s ancestry rooted in early America—and a notable kinship with U.S. presidents and political figures.

Rather’s genealogy uncovered relationships to U.S. Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt and Ulysses S. Grant, former Massachusetts Governor and current U.S. Senator Mitt Romney, and former U.S. Secretary of State John Forbes Kerry. On a lighter note, the study of Rather’s family history also showed a kinship with the late American actor, dancer, and singer Patrick Swayze. Upon hearing of these kinships, Rather—who was unfamiliar with his family history—said “I am nearly speechless.”

A dinner conversation with Rather followed and was conducted by Bill Griffeth, co-anchor of Nightly Business Report on CNBC.

Also honored by American Ancestors at its annual benefit were Margo Georgiadis, CEO of Ancestry, and Jonathan Tufts Woods, President General of the Society of the Cincinnati, for their personal and professional contributions to the field of family history.


-More-

# # #

About American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society

New England Historic Genealogical Society is the creator of American Ancestors, and is the most respected name in family history. With its national headquarters located in Boston’s Back Bay, it is the oldest and largest genealogical society in America. NEHGS was formally constituted in March of 1845 by an act of the legislature of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and now consists of more than 260,000 constituents engaged in family history nationally and around the world. It is home to a world-class research library and archive, an expert staff, offers an award-winning genealogical research website at AmericanAncestors.org, and maintains a publishing division producing original genealogical research, scholarship, and instruction each year.

Contact: Jim Power, Jr.
Communications Manager
jim.power@nehgs.org
Office: 617.226.1261 | Mobile: 508.367.8058

Legendary broadcast journalist Dan Rather was honored by American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) with its Lifetime Achievement Award at its Family History Benefit Dinner in Boston. Rather (left) was presented with a detailed genealogy by D. Brenton Simons (right), President and CEO of American Ancestors and NEHGS.

Credit: Pierce Harman Photography

(Left to Right) Dan Rather, Nancy Sands Maulsby, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS), and D. Brenton Simons, President and CEO of American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society.

Credit: Pierce Harman Photography