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Austin American-Statesman

Top civilian honor gi

Cagney among recipients of Presidential Medal of Freedom

WASHINGTON (AP) - Actor tears, received the nation's highest civilian honor along with a diverse group that included three men of great controversy during their lifetime - Whittaker Chambers, Anwar Sadat and Jackie Robinson.

In Cagney's case, it was life imitating art. In the 1942 movie "Yankee Doodle Dandy," - for which Cagney gave an Academy Awardwinning performance as George M. Cohan — there was a scene in which Cohan received the thanks of the nation from President Roosevelt.

President Reagan gave Cagney the Presidential Medal of Freedom and read the official citation that called the 84-year-old actor "a giant in the world entertainment.

Chambers' son, John, accepted the medal for his father, a former Communist who testified against State Department aide Alger Hiss before the House Un-American Activities Committee in the 1950s. Chambers died in 1961 at age 60.

The posthumous award to Sadat, accepted by his son Gamal, said the former president of Egypt led his country in war as a soldier "but his greatest acts of courage came in the pursuit of peace."

Robinson's widow, Rachel, accepted the award for the Brooklyn Dodgers' second baseman. "His courage opened the door of professional sports to all Americans when, in 1947, he became the first black baseball player in the major leagues," the citation said.

Others who received the award Monday were:

 Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker, R-Tenn.

- Dr. Hector Garcia, founder of James Cagney, his eyes filled with the American G.I. Forum, a Mexican-American veterans group.
 - Retired Army Gen. Andrew Goodpaster, a former NATO commander recalled from retirement to head the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.
 - coln Kirstein.
- · Louis L'Amour, author of Western novels. At the atmassafford
- The Rev. Norman Vincent Peale, author of "The Power of Positive Thinking." dore, the Section, Times
- Eunice Kennedy Shriver, sister of President John Kennedy, who was cited for her contribu-• American ballet promoter Line tions in the field of mental are story of retardation. To any fire the solution of

April 3rd, 1984

Dear Hector --

Congratulations on this welldeserved high honor! (Also, I'd like to hear from you and learn what the hell you did to deserve this honor).

And it is good to know that someone in our 1940 graduating medical school class did make it to the top and gain national recognition. Up until now I've felt we were a wasted lost lot.

Regards and good wishes.

Very sincerely,

P.S. We assume you'll be voting for President Reagan in the upcoming presidential election.