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AUGUST 7, 2009

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**National Humanities Alliance Welcomes Senate Confirmation  
of Jim Leach as NEH Chair**

(Washington, DC) – The National Humanities Alliance (NHA) welcomes today’s Senate confirmation of former Representative Jim Leach. Mr. Leach is expected to begin his duties as the ninth Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities early next week.

The Humanities Alliance recognized Mr. Leach in 2005 with its Sidney R. Yates Award for Distinguished Public Service to the Humanities for his work as co-founder of the Congressional Humanities Caucus. “The Humanities Alliance congratulates the Senate and President Obama on such a strong appointment for this role,” said NHA Executive Director, Jessica Irons. “We look forward to working with Mr. Leach to advance scholarship and public engagement in the humanities.”

President Obama nominated Mr. Leach on June 3, 2009. At that time, President Obama said, “I am confident that with Jim as its head, the National Endowment for the Humanities will continue on its vital mission of supporting the humanities and giving the American public access to the rich resources of our culture. Jim is a valued and dedicated public servant and I look forward to working with him in the months and years ahead.”

*Founded in 1981, the National Humanities Alliance is a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing national humanities policy in the areas of research, education, preservation, and public programs.*