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LBJ FOUNDATION NAMES THE FIERCE URGENCY OF NOW WINNER OF 29TH D.B. HARDEMAN PRIZE

AUSTIN, TX – May 2018 - The Lyndon Baines Johnson Foundation awards the D.B. Hardeman Prize to Julian E. Zelizer for his book, The Fierce Urgency of Now: Lyndon Johnson, Congress, and the Battle for the Great Society, published by the Penguin Press. The $10,000 prize is given to the author(s) of the most significant book on the U.S. Congress, as chosen by the Hardeman Prize National Selection Committee.

Julian E. Zelizer is the Malcolm Stevenson Forbes, Class of 1941 Professor of History and Public Affairs at Princeton University and a CNN Political Analyst. He is the author and editor of nineteen books on American political history, has written hundreds of op-eds, and appears regularly on television and radio. He has received fellowships at the New York Historical Society, the Guggenheim Foundation, the Russell Sage Foundation, New America and Brookings.

In The Fierce Urgency of Now, Zelizer provides insight into the years between November 1962 and November 1966 when President Lyndon Baines Johnson spearheaded the most transformative agenda in American politics since the New Deal. Known as the Great Society, Zelizer relays the epic story of how this agenda of progressive initiatives came to pass by examining the bitterly divided forces at play in the country including the battles that raged inside Congress and the administration.

The D.B. Hardeman Prize is awarded for the best book on the U.S. Congress, from the fields of biography, history, journalism and political science. Candidates are judged on their contribution to scholarship and to the public's understanding of Congress as well as literary craftsmanship, originality and depth of research.

In honoring The Fierce Urgency of Now, Angela Evans, Dean of the LBJ School of Public Affairs and a selection committee member, offers high praise, “Zelizer portrays LBJ as flawed, opportunistic and ambitious ---while simultaneously demonstrating his enormous talent for leadership and political strategies. His narrative and source data reveal the true complexities of legislating and the role so many stakeholders play in the
For more information regarding nominations for the D.B. Hardeman Prize, contact Samantha Stone, deputy director, at samantha@lbjfoundation.org or (512) 721-0263.

About the D.B. Hardeman Prize
D. Barnard Hardeman Jr. was a teacher, politician, and political advisor. He was a member of the Texas legislature before moving to Washington, D.C. in 1957 to serve as assistant to Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn. After Rayburn’s death in 1961, Hardeman worked for Majority Whip Hale Boggs of Louisiana, and in 1964 the American Political Science Association named him the first Honorary Congressional Fellow. Upon his death in 1981, Hardeman bequeathed the seed money to create the prize that bears his name as well as his extensive collection of books on American history and biography to the LBJ Presidential Library.