



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## AMERICANS FAIL TEST ON THEIR OWN HISTORY AND INSTITUTIONS

**Washington, DC – The Intercollegiate Studies Institute (ISI)**, a non-profit educational organization based in Wilmington, Delaware, will release and discuss the results of its third annual **National Civic Literacy Report** “*Our Fading Heritage: Americans Fail a Basic Test on Their History and Institutions*” at a **National Press Club briefing on Thursday, November 20**. ISI commissioned a 33-question civic literacy test to a random sample of 2,508 American adults, ranging from those without high school diplomas to those with advanced degrees. How well did Americans with college degrees fare against those that do not have a college education? How did elected officials fare against average citizens? What factors contribute to – or detract from – civic knowledge?

“**The results are alarming,**” stated **Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Josiah Bunting, III**, Chairman of ISI’s National Civic Literacy Board. “When we look closely at what Americans understand about important issues like the economy and how our monetary system works, it should be of concern especially when our country is facing a financial crisis.”

“*Our Fading Heritage: Americans Fail a Basic Test on Their History and Institutions* will make leaders inside and outside of the academy consider possible reforms,” contends **T. Kenneth Cribb, Jr.**, President of ISI.

**What:** ISI’s 3rd Annual American Civic Literacy Report to the Nation

**Who:** **Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Josiah Bunting, III** - Chairman, ISI’s National Civic Literacy Board  
**Dr. Richard Brake** – ISI’s Director of University Stewardship  
**The Hon. Eugene W. Hickok** – Former Deputy Secretary of Education  
**The Hon. T. Kenneth Cribb, Jr.** – President, Intercollegiate Studies Institute

**When:** **Thursday, November 20, 2008**  
**10:00 AM EDT**

**Where:** **The National Press Club**  
First Amendment Lounge  
529 14th St. NW, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20045

**Note:** A 12:00 PM Luncheon will follow the Press Conference and will feature columnist, David Brooks, from the *New York Times* along with a distinguished Higher Education panel.

**The Intercollegiate Studies Institute (ISI)** is a non-profit, non-partisan, tax-exempt educational organization whose purpose is to convey to successive generations of college youth a better understanding of the values and institutions that sustain a free and virtuous society. Founded in 1953, ISI works “to educate for liberty” — to identify the best and the brightest college students and to nurture in these future leaders the American ideal of ordered liberty. Visit ISI online at [www.isi.org](http://www.isi.org)

Please RSVP for this event by contacting Patrick Ford at [pford@isi.org](mailto:pford@isi.org) or (800) 526-7022 x117.