

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
February 2 – 4, 2010
Washington, D.C.**

**Action: Resolution Honoring Studs Terkel
(Submitted by Al Stein, Oral History Section)**

BACKGROUND

The following proposal was submitted by Al Stein, 2008-2009 Oral History Section chair, via e-mail to Nancy Beaumont on July 29, 2009, for consideration by the Awards Committee and/or the Council. The Awards Committee co-chairs deferred incorporating the matter into the Austin ceremony because they considered the matter under the purview of the Council. Because the submission arrived after the deadline for August Council meeting agenda items, it was put on the Council's agenda for February 2010.

A copy of Stein's e-mail message is included below.

DISCUSSION

From: asteinca@earthlink.net [mailto:asteinca@earthlink.net]
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2009 2:14 PM
To: Nancy Beaumont
Cc: Rosalye.Settles@ots.treas.gov; Mark Cave HNOG; SAA oral history section
Subject: Studs Terkel Resolution

One of the last orders of business I would like to complete as Chair of the OH Section is to submit a proposal to the Awards Committee to recognize Studs Terkel via resolution or exemplary service award. Our Section liaison, Rosalye Settles, said the idea of recognizing Mr. Terkel was positively received at the Midwinter meeting, and since then our Section has approved the draft that I authored, which was also published in our last OH Section Newsletter:

See: <http://www.archivists.org/saagroups/oralhist/May%2009%20newsletter.pdf>

[unrelated text removed]

Cordially,

Al Stein, Oral History Section Chair, 2008-2009

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the SAA Council adopt the following resolution honoring Oral Historian Louis “Studs” Terkel:

SAA Council Resolution Honoring Oral Historian Louis “Studs” Terkel

***WHEREAS* Louis “Studs” Terkel has made outstanding contributions to archival oral history; to the National Gallery of the Spoken Word, based at Michigan State University; and to Chicago’s cultural record at the Chicago History Museum; and**

***WHEREAS* Sound recordings in general, and oral history recordings in particular, have established a significant and rapidly increasing presence within multimedia archives; and**

***WHEREAS* The Studs Terkel Center for Oral History (at the Chicago History Museum) presents both a case study and an examination of one of the country’s most important and popular oral history archives; and**

***WHEREAS* The SAA Oral History Section recognized Studs Terkel during SAA’s 61st Annual Meeting, August 25-31, 1997, in Chicago, and as an expression of our gratitude presented Mr. Terkel with a Certificate of Appreciation; and**

***WHEREAS* The SAA Oral History Section endorsed the Studs Terkel Plenary Session “Free Speech, Free Spirit: The Studs Terkel Center for Oral History” at SAA’s 71st Annual Meeting, August 28-September 2, 2007, in Chicago; and**

***WHEREAS* Studs Terkel’s work has been an inspiration to so many of us, and has effectively served to promote oral history and heighten the general awareness of its uniqueness and value; and**

***WHEREAS* Studs Terkel has given a voice to many people whose stories wouldn’t have otherwise been told and has inspired many to record those voices and preserve those stories; and**

***WHEREAS* This resolution will enhance appreciation for the value of the oral history process in general and for the contributions and significance of Studs Terkel’s work in the field of archival oral history;**

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT* The Society of American Archivists recognizes and thanks Louis “Studs” Terkel for his outstanding contributions to the field of oral history and to the archives profession by preserving the cultural record through the spoken word.**

Support Statement: Studs had the ability to narrate history orally and would help confront the issues most archival oral historians deal with in terms of giving an identity to the increased popularity of oral history collections: being recognized for their own merit (as more written

records are being digitized) and spotlighting archives that collect and interpret their “aural” history collections. What better way to help SAA celebrate its own anniversary than by celebrating Studs, whose life spanned the history of SAA – from Roosevelt’s New Deal to Obama’s New Era of transparency.

Fiscal Impact: None.