

Dayton Daily News

Terkel Wins Dayton Literary Peace Prize

The 94-year-old writer will be honored for his lifetime achievement

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Louis (Studs) Terkel will receive the inaugural Dayton Literary Peace Prize for Lifetime Achievement, the literary peace prize steering committee has announced. Terkel is generally regarded as America's greatest living oral historian, and his books honor Americans who worked during trying and extraordinary times. They include *Division Street: America* (1967), *Hard Times* (1970) and *Working* (1984).

At 94, Terkel has had a full life performing in radio dramas, starring in his own television program, writing a newspaper column and most notably, interviewing thousands of people.

Known for his ability to interview, Terkel has spoken to the most famous of people as well as people on the street who had a voice that needed to be heard.

"Certainly he has expressed his great pleasure in receiving the award," said Sharon Rab, chairwoman for the Dayton Literary Peace Prize. "We are quite hopeful

that if he is in good health that he will be here to receive the award."

Rab said this is the nation's only literary peace prize. Germany also gives an international peace prize. "In the future, we're hoping that the Dayton Literary Peace Prize becomes a truly international award," Rab said.

The Dayton Literary Peace Prize is an outgrowth of the Dayton Peace Prize, which has been given to Archbishop Desmond Tutu, philanthropist George Soros, President Bill Clinton and Ambassador Richard Holbrooke.

Beside the lifetime achievement award, the group Dayton: A Peace Process will award two writers in the categories of fiction and nonfiction. Each award is \$10,000 and will be presented at the Schuster Center on Nov. 5.

The awards commemorate the 1995 Dayton Peace Accords, which were negotiated at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, and signaled the end of the Balkan conflict.