

UCSD historian Ramon Ruiz among 9 distinguished scholars to be honored at White House with National Humanities Medal

October 28, 1998

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1998

Media Contact: Kate Callen, (619) 534-0361 or kcallen@ucsd.edu

UCSD HISTORIAN RAMON RUIZ AMONG 9 DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS TO BE HONORED AT WHITE HOUSE WITH NATIONAL HUMANITIES MEDAL

Ramon Eduardo Ruiz, Professor Emeritus of Latin American History at the University of California, San Diego, is one of nine distinguished Americans who will be awarded the 1998 National Humanities Medal by President and Mrs. Clinton at the White House Nov. 5.

Ruiz, a foremost historian of Hispanic America, will receive his medal at a special ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House at 9:30 a.m. All recipients will be honored at a White House dinner that evening.

In addition to Ruiz, the 1998 National Humanities Medalists are: historian Stephen E. Ambrose; novelist E.L. Doctorow; religious scholar Diana L. Eck; literacy advocate Nancye Brown Gaj; African-American scholar Henry Louis Gates, Jr.; education administrator Vartan Gregorian; historian Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr.; and syndicated columnist Garry Wills.

"All of us at the university salute and congratulate Ramon on this richly deserved honor," said UCSD Senior Vice Chancellor Marsha Chandler. "His intellectual achievements over a remarkable 30-year career and his leadership as a cultural scholar have brought great honor to our humanities programs."

Ruiz has been a professor of Latin American history at UCSD since 1970. Author of a dozen books and numerous articles, he has written on multiple aspects of Mexico's history and has taught at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico and other Mexican institutions.

Ruiz's studies of the two most important upheavals in Hispanic America, the Cuban and Mexican revolutions, are now standard reference works. A former president of the Chicano/Latino Faculty Association of the University of California system, he has been honored for his contributions to education by the Chicano Federation of San Diego and by his students at UCSD.

The National Humanities Medal honors individuals or groups whose work has deepened the nation's understanding of the humanities, broadened citizens' engagement with the humanities or helped preserve and expand Americans' access to important humanities resources. The humanities are areas of study such as history, literature, philosophy and languages that form the record of human cultural heritage.

Recipients of the National Humanities Medal are selected by the president of the United States following a selection process in which the National Endowment for the Humanities solicits nominations that are reviewed by the National Council for the Humanities.

(October 28, 1998)