

Veteran commentator Daniel Schorr to speak at UCSD, May 8

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VETERAN COMMENTATOR DANIEL SCHORR TO SPEAK AT UCSD

"Forgive Us Our Press Passes" is the title, of a May 8 lecture to be given by award-winning broadcast commentator and journalist Daniel Schorr, at the University of California, San Diego campus. Schorr will deliver the Higgs Memorial Lecture at 8 p.m. in Peterson Hall. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Schorr, currently a senior news analyst for National Public Radio, has a wealth of experience as a reporter and commentator on national television and radio news programs. His career spans more than 50 years, including 20 years as a foreign correspondent during which he garnered many honors for his reporting. Among them were three Emmies, television's highest award; the Peabody Award and the George Polk Radio Commentary Award.

Recently, he was named winner of the Alfred I. DuPont-Columbia University Golden Baton Award, the most prestigious award in broadcasting, for his "exceptional contributions to television and radio reporting and commentary."

His analysis of current issues is broadened by his first-hand perspective on historical events. After serving in an Army intelligence unit in World War II, he remained in Europe, writing for the Christian Science Monitor and later, the New York Times.

His coverage in 1955 of a disastrous flood that broke the dikes in the Netherlands brought him to the attention of the legendary Edward R. Murrow, who reported for CBS News during the war in Europe.

Schorr became CBS diplomatic correspondent in Washington, and traveled on assignment to Central and South America. He is the surviving member of Murrow's news team, which reported on the world's happenings from every corner of the globe. In 1955 Schorr won accreditation to open a CBS bureau in Moscow. His exclusive interview with then Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev -- the first-ever by an American journalist -- won Schorr further honors.

But Schorr's repeated defiance of Soviet censorship landed him in trouble with the KGB, the Soviet Union's secret police. After a brief arrest on trumped-up charges, he was barred from that country.

Back in the United States, Schorr covered the United Nations, including Khrushchev's tumultuous tour of the United States in 1959. He also interviewed Cuban leader Fidel Castro in Havana and traveled with President Eisenhower to South America, Asia, and Europe.

In 1960 he was assigned to Bonn as CBS bureau chief for Germany and Western Europe, covering the Berlin crisis and the building of the Berlin Wall.

The infamous Watergate scandal in 1972, that eventually brought down the presidency of Richard Nixon, became a full-time assignment for Schorr. In 1979, broadcast mogul Ted Turner asked Schorr to create the Cable News Network (CNN), and he served as its Washington correspondent for a number of years.

The Higgs Memorial Lecture at UCSD is named for the late DeWitt A. Higgs, a prominent San Diego attorney who served as a member of the UC Board of Regents for 16 years. He was chair from 1968 to 1970, and vice chair from 1970-71, at a time when students were protesting at the various UC campuses over American's involvement in the Vietnam conflict. Former UC President Charles Hitch said that Higgs was the very "glue" which held the university together during that difficult time.

Higgs and his partner, Ferdinand Fletcher, founded one of the San Diego's largest and most prestigious law firms, Higgs, Fletcher and Mack, in 1939. When Higgs died in 1994, Gov. Pete Wilson said of him: "He was a lawyer's lawyer, and brought to the profession a scrupulousness and professionalism that you would like to think is the mode."

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