Wilkes University
Commencement, May 25, 1991
Citation for the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters

DANIEL LOUIS SCHORR

Daniel Louis Schorr, you have sought through more than half a century of journalism to penetrate the veil of deception and pretense to uncover for the American public the reality of things political. Foreign correspondent in Europe and Latin America after World War II, writing for *The New York Times*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, and *The London Daily Mail*, you joined with the great Edward R. Murrow at CBS in the early 1950s. For more than two decades you were a key part of the CBS news team, opening the CBS bureau in Moscow in 1955. Your repeated efforts to evade the Soviet censorship to report the news back to America led to your arrest and expulsion. You remained in Europe until 1966, reporting developments in both Western Germany and Eastern Europe, including the Berlin crisis that led to the building of the Wall. You then returned to America and over the next decade covered the nation for CBS from Washington. No less reverent about secrets in our government than you had been about secrets in Eastern Europe, you probed with your unsparing gaze the Civil Rights Movement, the dawning environmental movement, and the political scandal surrounding Watergate. You made it on the Nixon “enemies list.” When you insisted on publishing a final report on the House of Representatives' intelligence investigating committee on scandals in the FBI and CIA, you were threatened with jail and temporarily suspended by CBS because you would not divulge your sources for the report. As we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Bill of Rights, including its precious First Amendment guaranteeing freedom of the press, we salute your constant defense and use of the First Amendment to help Americans understand their government and their governors even as you have sought to make sense of the growing global interdependence that defines our future. Your "weekend edition" commentary on National Public Radio has been a significant force in promoting public understanding of the dramatic changes in the superpower relationships following the crumbling of the Berlin Wall. Whether the topic is U.S./Soviet relations, the Iran-Contra scandal, the Persian Gulf War, the pursuit of peace among Arabs and Israelis, or presidential and congressional politics in America, you continue to provide an angle of vision that comprehends the reality of political power, the personal nuances of leadership, and the irony and humor in the human comedy. Throughout, you bring a prophetic sense to this fascinating human drama and inform our citizenship. By the power vested in me by the Board of Trustees of Wilkes University and by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I confer upon you, Daniel Louis Schorr, the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, with all the rights and privileges appertaining thereto.