

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST TO AWARD AN HONORARY DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS DEGREE AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by the University of Iowa to award an honorary doctor of humane letters degree to Tom Brokaw at Spring 2009 Commencement.

Executive Summary: The University of Iowa wishes to recognize Mr. Brokaw for his exceptional contributions to journalism and service to the nation. Mr. Brokaw's commitment to seeking and sharing knowledge, as well as his civic and philanthropic contributions, sets an outstanding example for the University of Iowa community and for all Iowans.

Details on Mr. Brokaw's Accomplishments:

- ◇ In more than four decades with NBC News, Mr. Brokaw reported live and on-the-scene about many of the signature events of our era, including the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the 1995 Oklahoma City bombings, and the 2001 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. As anchor and managing editor of the NBC Nightly News for more than two decades, Mr. Brokaw was an influential and iconic figure in broadcast journalism, familiar to hundreds of millions of television viewers.
- ◇ Mr. Brokaw continues to produce television documentaries reporting on and analyzing issues, including the war in Iraq, undocumented immigrants, religion in the U.S., and race and poverty.
- ◇ Tom Brokaw began his college education at the University of Iowa (1958-59) and graduated from the University of South Dakota with a major in political science.
- ◇ Mr. Brokaw began working for NBC within four years of his college graduation and remained there for his entire professional career.
 - 📖 1966-73 – Reporter, Correspondent and Anchor, KNBC-TV, Los Angeles.
 - 📖 1973-76 – White House Correspondent, NBC Nightly News, Washington, D.C.
 - 📖 1973-76 – Anchor, Saturday Night News, New York City.
 - 📖 1976-82 – Host, Today Show, New York City.
 - 📖 1983-04 – Anchor and Managing Editor, NBC Nightly News, New York City.
 - 📖 2004-present – Special Correspondent.
- ◇ In the past decade, he has become a widely read author of contemporary history books. His first book, *The Greatest Generation* (1998) depicts the Americans who came of age during the Great Depression, fought in World War II, and built post-war America. He has written four additional books:
 - 📖 1999 – *The Greatest Generation Speaks*.

- 📖 2001 – *An Album of Memories*.
- 📖 2002 – *A Long Way from Home: Growing Up in the American Heartland*.
- 📖 2007 – *Boom!: Voices of the Sixties, Personal Reflections on the '60s and Today*.

- ◇ He has received many of the highest honors in his profession, including the Edward R. Murrow Lifetime Achievement Award in 2006 and the Emmy Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2004. He was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2005 and the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Hall of Fame in 2006. He also received numerous awards for reporting, including two Peabody Awards for documentary reports – “A Question of Fairness” (2004), which dealt with affirmative action in admission to academic programs; and “To Be an American” (1989), which dealt with civic history and the duties of citizenship.

- ◇ In addition to other honors and awards, such as the Horatio Alger Award, Mr. Brokaw has received include honorary degrees from 15 colleges and universities.

- ◇ At the University of Iowa, Mr. Brokaw established the Tom Brokaw Scholarship Fund, which provides support to first-year students of Native American descent. He is a member of the University President’s Club and has contributed to the University in a number of ways.
 - 📖 Volunteer - Iowa Endowment 2000 Campaign National Committee.
 - 📖 Narrator - 2004 documentary about University of Iowa graduate Paul Conrad, an editorial cartoonist.
 - 📖 Narrator - 1999 documentary about James Van Allen.
 - 📖 Narrator – video honoring Henry B. Tippie.
 - 📖 University of Iowa Distinguished Alumni Lecture (1992) - “America’s Challenge: Preparing for the Millennium.”

- ◇ Mr. Brokaw’s many service roles reflect his civic and philanthropic interests.
 - 📖 Trustee – University of South Dakota Foundation.
 - 📖 Trustee – Norton Simon Museum of Art, Pasadena, CA.
 - 📖 Trustee – American Museum of Natural History.
 - 📖 Board of Visitors – Howard University School of Communications.
 - 📖 Board of Directors – International Rescue Committee.
 - 📖 Board of Directors – Council on Foreign Relations.
 - 📖 Advisory Board – Committee to Protect Journalists.
 - 📖 National Honorary Chairman – Institute of World War II and the Human Experience.

Mr. Brokaw’s commitment to inquiry and integrity has earned him the trust and respect of colleagues and viewers alike.