Former First Lady Laura Bush to participate in TSLAC Literary Landmark Ceremony

AUSTIN, Texas—Former U.S. and Texas First Lady Laura Bush will be the guest speaker and presenter at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission's dedication ceremony of the Lorenzo de Zavala State Archives and Library Building as a National Literary Landmark, on Thursday, December 3, 2009, at 11 a.m.

The Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations issued the designation to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission for the use of its library resources and archives for the research and inspiration of prominent Texas authors.

"It is an honor to have the Texas State Library and Archives Commission's flagship Lorenzo de Zavala building recognized in this way, especially since this is the Commission's centennial," said Peggy D. Rudd, Texas State Library and Archives Commission director and state librarian. "And to have First Lady Laura Bush join us for the celebration is really icing on the cake!"

The ceremony will take place on the front steps of the building located at 1201 Brazos Street, (bounded by Brazos, San Jacinto, 12th & 13th Streets) in Austin just east of the Texas State Capitol. Immediately following the ceremony, there will be a reception in the newly renovated lobby of the Lorenzo de Zavala building.

Available in the lobby will be displays, materials and works used by James Michener, author of Texas; Jack "Jaxon" Jackson, author of graphic novels on Texas history; and Walter Prescott Webb, author of The Texas Rangers. Each author used resources and materials that are now located in the building to create their works.

The Lorenzo de Zavala building will be the fourth structure in Texas to receive the National Literary Landmark designation. Other recipients include the O. Henry House and Museum in Austin (1999); the Menger Hotel in San Antonio (2000); and the Katherine Anne Porter Home in Kyle (2002).

This event is a part of the yearlong celebration recognizing the act creating the Texas Library and Historical Commission. On March 19, 1909, Governor Thomas M. Campbell signed the bill that created the agency. The bill directed the new agency to aid and encourage public libraries and collect materials related to Texas history. TSLAC has selected "1909–2009: A Century of Service to Texas" as the slogan for its 100th anniversary.

Renamed in 1979 as the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC), the agency continues its mission to safeguard significant resources; provide information services and support research, education and reading; and enhance the capacity for achievement of current and future generations.
The Lorenzo de Zavala State Archives and Library building is the TSLAC headquarters and opened in 1961. The building is currently undergoing a major renovation thanks to a $15.5 million appropriation from the Texas Legislature and private funds raised by the Friends of Libraries & Archives of Texas. It is expected to be completed in the spring of 2010. Renovations have been completed on the ground, first and second floors, which are now open to the public to give patrons new and modern research environments. Construction continues on the third and fourth floors and upper stacks.

The Friends of Libraries & Archives of Texas, Texas Center for the Book, Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations joins the Texas State Library and Archives Commission in supporting the literary landmark event.

ABOUT THE TEXAS STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES COMMISSION

TSLAC helps Texans find the information they seek. The people of Texas utilize TSLAC services and programs to effectively use information and materials that improve their lives, the lives of their families, and their communities. Since 1909, TSLAC has carried out a commitment of making information work for all Texans by providing history and genealogical services, federal and state government documents, electronic research, and library services to Texans of all ages who are unable to read standard print material due to visual, physical, or reading disabilities. For more information, go to www.tsl.state.tx.us.

ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES, ADVOCATES, FRIENDS AND FOUNDATIONS

On February 1, 2009, Friends of Libraries U.S.A. (FOLUSA) and the Association for Library Trustees and Advocate (ALTA) joined forces to become an expanded division of American Libraries Association (ALA) known as ALTAFF, the Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations. Through this partnership, ALTAFF unites libraries’ voices to speak out on behalf of library services and free public access to information. Literary Landmarks™ provide Friends, Trustees and libraries with an opportunity to honor the literary heritage in their community by commemorating important local or national author sites with a plaque. For more information go to www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/altaff/outreach/literarylandmarks/index.cfm.