July 2012

Dear Friend/Colleague of David Montgomery,

David Montgomery, former president of the Organization of American Historians (1999–2000), passed away in December 2011. David was the Farnam Professor of History Emeritus at Yale University, and a leading figure in the modern field of labor and working class history. He was also the tireless mentor to a generation of graduate students, first at the University of Pittsburgh and then at Yale. Moreover, he connected American historians to an international group of historians through his revival and expansion of the journal International Labor and Working-Class History in 1979.

Throughout his life, he worked to support the rights and working conditions of all workers. Thus, David received the first Distinguished Service Award for Labor and Working-Class History in 2007 from the Labor and Working Class History Association (LAWCHA). LAWCHA officers Cecelia Bucki and Shelton Stromquist asked then OAH President Alice Kessler-Harris to bring to the OAH Executive Board a request that, in collaboration with LAWCHA, an annual book award in Labor and Working-Class History be established in Montgomery’s name. The OAH Board approved this request at its April 2012 meeting, as did the LAWCHA board.

As former students and colleagues of David, we now come to you for help in building the $50,000 endowment needed to establish this prize. Some donations have already come in unsolicited, but we are now making a concerted call for donations. We hope to begin awarding this prize in 2014 (for books published in 2013), which means that the endowment must be fulfilled by December 2012.

Please show your support by making a donation today. We welcome donations of any size, but we hope you will be as generous as your circumstances allow. In the spirit of David Montgomery’s work and scholarship, the categories are: $2,500 and over—Master Mechanic; $1,000–$2,499—All-Round Machinist; $500–$999, Tool-and-Die maker; $100–$499, Machine Operator; and Up to $99, Apprentice. Please see the accompanying form for ways of donating. Remember to mark your donation “Montgomery Book Award Fund.” Thank you for your generosity.

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This form is also available at: www.oah.org/donate/montgomeryaward.html
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