

Dayton Daily News

Author Wiesel to receive Dayton Literary Honor

April 27, 2007

DAYTON — Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel has been chosen to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Dayton Literary Peace Prize Committee. The esteemed writer of both fiction and nonfiction will be awarded the honor on Oct. 14 at the Benjamin and Marian Schuster Center for the Performing Arts.

Wiesel has previously been honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the French Legion of Honor, the United States of America Congressional Gold Medal and the Nobel Peace Prize.

Best known for his 1958 memoir *La Nuit* (Night), which chronicles his own experiences in European concentration camps during World War II, Wiesel has written more than 40 internationally acclaimed works of fiction and nonfiction. He is currently the Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities Department at Boston University.

"Professor Wiesel is so very esteemed and his work captures the essence of the prize in so many ways," said committee co-chair Sharon Rab. "He was a natural candidate for this prize and we are just so delighted that he has accepted and will come."

Wiesel, she said, was chosen because of his role as a literary and political spokesman on behalf of Jews and others who have suffered persecution because of their religion, race or national origin.

The award, an outgrowth of the Dayton Peace Accords, is the only literary peace prize given in this country; it was initiated in 2006. Committee members work year-round on the selection process, considering those whose body of work has contributed to peace and also has high literary value. Last year, writer and social historian Studs Terkel received the Lifetime Achievement Award. To learn more about this and other awards being given Oct. 14, visit www.daytonliterarypeaceprize.org.