



NEWS RELEASE

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St. Louis-Stuttgart Sister Cities Organization Honored With A Special International Broadcast Featuring German Chancellor Merkel's "Medal of Freedom" Award Presentation With President Obama

ST. LOUIS – The Honorable Francis R. Slay, Mayor of the City of St. Louis, and the St. Louis-Stuttgart Sister Cities will hold a reception in the Mayor's Office on Wednesday, June 8, 2011, in honor of Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany, receiving the "Medal of Freedom" Award from President Obama at the White House State Dinner.

An excerpt from the recent remarks by President Obama regarding German Chancellor Angela Merkel selection as an Award winner is posted on the "Medal of Freedom" website. It states:

From Barack Obama, the White House: Growing up in communist East Germany, Angela Merkel dreamed of freedom. And when the Wall finally crumbled and Germany was reunited, she broke barriers of her own, becoming the first East German -- and the first woman -- to become chancellor of Germany.

To America, Chancellor Merkel and the country she leads are among our closest allies. To me, she is a trusted global partner and a friend. To people around the world, the story of Angela Merkel is an inspiration. "Everything is possible," she's said -- something the world has seen again in recent weeks. "Freedom does not come about of itself. It must be struggled for, and then defended anew, every day of our lives." Chancellor Merkel isn't here today. She'll be visiting me for a visit -- an official visit soon, and so I look forward to presenting her the award when she comes.

(More)

St. Louis was selected by U.S. Department of State as one of only three cities in the United States who will be receiving this special, closed circuit broadcast. The other cities participating in this special international event are Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. Ron Hawkins from the State Department will be in attendance at the St. Louis-Stuttgart Sister Cities Reception at the Mayor's offices.

According to Susanne Evens, President of the St. Louis-Stuttgart Sister Cities organization, "We are very honored that St. Louis was one of only three cities selected for this once in a lifetime event. Last year, our organization marked our 50th anniversary with both mayors visiting each other's cities. We're glad this international relationship of goodwill has carried over to such a momentous event."

She continues. "Our entire organization's membership is very excited that we'll have the opportunity to witness President Obama bestow the "Medal of Freedom" Award to German Chancellor Angela Merkel, and we're pleased that Mayor Slay and his staff have invited the St. Louis-Stuttgart Sister Cities organization and our patrons, sponsors and guests to celebrate this occasion at his chambers in St. Louis City Hall."

The St. Louis-Stuttgart Sister Cities organization thanks their patrons and sponsors for making this Reception with the City of St. Louis Mayor Slay possible:

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- The Honorary Consul of Germany, Emerita, Hon. Anna Mayer Beck
- University of Missouri-St. Louis German Culture Center
- World Trade Center St. Louis

"This is an important opportunity to celebrate Chancellor Merkel's award from President Obama," said Mayor Francis G. Slay. "Furthermore, this event celebrates many years of a successful sister city relationship between St. Louis and Stuttgart."

For more information about this special Reception event with St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay, please contact the St. Louis-Stuttgart Sister Cities organization at (636) 530-1010, via email at evens@aaatranslation.com, or at the organization's website at www.slssc.org.

About St. Louis-Stuttgart Sister Cities, Inc.

Serving the St. Louis community since 1960, St. Louis-Stuttgart Sister Cities, Inc. (SLSSC) is actively involved in encouraging multicultural experiences through cultural events, student exchanges and business trade missions. St. Louis-Stuttgart Sister Cities, Inc. is a membership organization open to anyone interested in joining and wishing to participate in its activities.

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